

THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

VOL. XVI

AUGUST, 1926

NUMBER 8

NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Published Monthly by the National Wool
Growers Association Company, (Inc.)

F. J. HAGENBARTH, President

Published at 303 McCormick Building, Salt Lake City,
Utah.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

Entered as Second Class Matter January, 1913, at the
Postoffice at Salt Lake City, Utah.

EDITOR.....F. R. MARSHALL
ASSISTANT EDITOR.....IRENE YOUNG
Salt Lake City, Utah.
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Affairs of Wool And Sheep

The Year's Production

The month of August permits a fairly good forecast of the sheepman's results for the year. The price on the later shipments of lambs remains to be determined but the crop and market reports of July indicate what may be expected and this year the indications are for better fall values than had been talked of earlier.

The size of the wool and lamb crops is known. The former has largely been realized upon. The proceeds from the early end of the lamb crop are in hand. The range conditions affecting the finishing of the lambs are known as is also the condition of the feed on the fall range for the ewe bands.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates an increase in thirteen western states of five per cent in the number of ewes of breeding age on hand and an increase from 79 to 88 per cent in the percentage relation of lambs raised to the number of breeding ewes. The accuracy of these estimates is open to question. Unfortunately there is no means of getting a complete check later on. Like all such figures their value is solely for making comparisons.

The present larger lamb crop is not wholly due to favorable seasons. Such increase as there has been in the percentage yield of lambs is due in considerable part to better management at breeding and lambing times. In the case of the Washington state crop which is reported for 1925 as having been only 90 per cent of the number of breeding ewes, as compared to 102 per cent this year, the estimates plainly are awry.

The details of the government estimates of numbers of sheep on hand and of the lamb and wool crops are printed in this issue.

The Year's Prices

For that part of the 1925 clip that has

been sold by the growers disappointing prices were received. The causes and remedies have been extensively discussed in these columns. To a very large extent the means for improvement lie within the reach of the growers themselves. It is certain that without the protective tariff the condition would have been ruinous to growers.

Prices for lambs may in part make up for failure to obtain remunerative prices for wool. At reasonable figures for fat and feeder lambs the grower will benefit through the larger numbers raised as a result of his improved management and the favorable early season, but seasons vary and under most efficient methods the lamb yields will sometimes be smaller. There always will be need for organization to develop and make effective, plans for better marketing and for bringing to the producer the largest possible proportion of what the consumer pays.

Government Predictions

The unfortunate and unjustifiable action by the Department of Agriculture in attempting to forecast lamb and wool prices is referred to in this issue. Last year the Wool Grower (the editor makes no claim to the prophetic ability of this class of economists) predicted that we had seen the last of these agricultural price forecasts. That prediction was based upon confidence in the fairness and good judgment of Thomas Cooper who became chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics last fall. Mr. Cooper saw to it that the economists operated in the present. They reported facts and estimates of supplies and refrained from the attempt to guess future prices. Very unfortunately Mr. Cooper severed his connection with the department on July 1, and the economists have quickly shown their great need of a chief who knows how and when economists can give real service. Need-

less to say, the officers of the National Wool Growers Association have made strong representations to have the Department of Agriculture return to the policy of reporting facts about supply and leaving buyers and sellers to do their own guessing on prices.

Overstocking the Range

That the wool industry will increase production when given reasonably stable and remunerative markets, can no longer be denied by the free trade theorists who have been wont to argue that protection of home markets does not increase our wool supply.

The effect of larger flocks upon range conditions in western states raises another question. That part of the increase in flocks that comes from eastern and western farms safely can be held and further added to, and this will be done if the policies of our present national government are continued.

It is more difficult to say how the present or further increase in the range flocks is to be fed. The number of sheep grazed upon national forests has declined. This is due, in some forests, to lack of stock, resulting from liquidation. But there have been extensive reductions put into effect by the officials for the protection of the forage. In many cases these reductions are justifiable. A poorly fed large flock is not likely to be so profitable as a smaller but better fed one kept upon the same area. Forest officials and stockmen should both stand firmly against the temptation in good feed years to increase stock numbers above what the ranges can well carry in seasons of average or less than average feed growth.

With more sheep on hand and without larger numbers being admitted to the forest ranges the question of the condition of the other summer ranges becomes imminent, and the carrying of the larger number upon the range available for the rest of the year is a vital matter. If the users of those lands can secure legal recognition of such use and thereby insure maintenance of feed supply and safe rates of stocking the lands then the future will be more secure for all producers and consumers.

FREIGHT RATE INCREASE NOT ALLOWED

About one year ago the western railroads filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission a petition for authority to increase by 5 per cent the freight rates upon a long list of commodities including live stock and agricultural products. This request which was docketed as Ex Parte 87, the Commission refused in a decision rendered on July 14.

The proposal of the railroads, which is now removed from the docket of the Interstate Commerce Commission was filed soon after the Commission had arranged for public hearings upon Docket 17,000 to consider and receive testimony relative to matters covered in the Hoch-Smith resolution passed by Congress in January, 1925. The carriers argued the necessity of larger revenue to prevent bankruptcy of some of the lines and dwelt heavily upon the condition of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul system.

The Commission ordered that request for rates to produce larger revenues and the matters in the Hoch-Smith resolutions should be considered together. It was felt by some shipper representatives that the 5 per cent increase might have been proposed in order to draw attention away from the fundamental and vitally important issues prescribed by Congress for study by the Commission. Whether or not such was the case the effect certainly was to cause most of the testimony from shippers to be focused upon the proposal for an immediate small increase. The large questions of the Hoch-Smith resolution, as to fairness of rates as affecting different sections and different industries was, to a very large extent lost sight of. On those matters the Commission did not receive the kind or amount of testimony that should have been offered or that would have been put in if the two matters had been handled separately.

The Commission will now continue its procedure under the Hoch-Smith resolution, to consider what should be the contribution of various sections, industries, and commodities to the maintenance of an adequate system of transportation by rail.

The Secretary of the National Wool

Growers Association and special counsel testified in the hearings held last fall and emphasized chiefly the fact that live stock and wool were paying a much larger transportation rate than was being charged for more expensive service on some other commodities.

In respect to the status of the investigation under the Hoch-Smith resolution the Commission's decision said:

"Full information as to what the rates now are, and what would constitute reasonable rates, is necessary before action may be taken prescribing reasonable and non-prejudicial rates, in view of the terms of the resolution requiring us so to readjust rates as to bring about fair relations between particular sections, competing points, and traffic. The record, however, warrants us in concluding that in proposing changes in existing rate structures, either for the purpose of improving earnings of carriers in western trunk-line territory, or for the purpose of rectifying inequalities in existing rate structures, carriers should propose no advances in the rates on products of agriculture, including live stock, except where particular rates on such products may need adjustment to remove inconsistencies, or where it can be shown that the product in question is not affected by depression. The terms "products of agriculture" and "livestock" we understand to mean such products and animals as are customarily produced for profit by farmers and ranchmen individually or co-operatively. The earnings of carriers in the western district, as a whole, have not been such as to warrant us on the record as it stands today in making any general downward revision of rates on products of agriculture, or of other industries subject to depression. The record does, however, present much information which bears directly on the task imposed upon us by the resolution, and it is our purpose to attempt to obtain further information necessary to enable us to determine what, if any, readjustments should be made as between commodities or in furtherance of the rectification of the rate structure as between particular points and districts. Our conclusions are without prejudice to the determination of the issues in No. 17000 and No. 15686 upon the consolidated record."

In regard to the 5 per cent increase, the decision includes the following statement:

"As to Ex Parte 87, it is quite clear from the evidence that so far as the major portion of the western district is concerned no financial emergency exists. In this portion the carriers appear to be both financially and physically sound. In the northwestern region and in western trunk-line territory the revenues of certain of the important carriers have not yielded 5.75 per cent upon any rate bases that can reasonably be adopted in advance of a final determination of present value for rate-making purposes. The least favorable conditions in the districts, so far as carrier revenues are concerned, appear to exist in western trunk-line territory. It is, however, to be noted that both in the northwestern region and in western trunk-line territory, as well as in the western district as a whole, conditions have recently shown an improving tendency.

THE TARIFF AND AGRICULTURE

A great deal of recent discussion about farmers and the tariff has been based on a misunderstanding of what was the actual attitude of the Congress toward agriculture when the Forney-McCumber bill became law in September, 1922.

The following list of protected articles and of articles on the free list covers what farmers principally produce and purchase:

Protected Agricultural Commodities

Apples, green or ripe, 25 cents per bushel. Dried, 2 cents per lb.
 Beans, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per lb.
 Flax seed, 40 cents per bushel.
 Berries, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per lb.
 Poultry, live, 3 cents per lb.
 Eggs, 8 cents per dozen.
 Honey, 3 cents per lb.
 Cattle, under 1050 pounds, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. Over 1050 pounds, 2 cents per lb.
 Beef and veal, 3 cents per lb.
 Sheep and goats, \$2 per head.
 Mutton and chevon, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb.
 Lamb, 4 cents per lb.
 Hogs, live, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per lb.
 Pork, fresh, $\frac{3}{4}$ cent per lb.
 Pork, cured, 2 cents per lb.
 Lard, 1 cent per lb.
 Lard compounds and substitutes, 4 cents per lb.
 Milk, fresh, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per gallon.
 Cream, 20 cents per gallon.
 Milk, condensed, unsweetened, 1 cent per lb, sweetened, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb.
 Butter, 8 cents per lb.
 Barley, 20 cents per bushel.
 Corn, 15 cents per bushel.
 Oats, 15 cents per bushel.
 Rye, 15 cents per bushel.
 Wheat, 45 cents per bushel.
 Onions, 1 cent per lb.
 Peas, 1 cent per lb.
 Potatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per lb.
 Tomatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per lb.
 Hay, \$4 per ton.
 Straw, \$1 per ton.
 Lemons, 2 cents per lb.
 Oranges, 1 cent per lb.
 Sugar, 1.24 cents per lb. (minimum).
 Sugar beets, 80 cents per ton.
 Wool: for clothing, 31 cents per clean lb.

Duty Free

Agricultural Commodities and Farmers' Purchases.

Live stock, pure bred, when imported for breeding purposes.

Agricultural Implements
 Bananas
 Binding Twine
 Brick
 Cement
 Coal
 Coffee
 Fertilizer
 Hides
 Leather
 Harness
 Boots and Shoes
 Sheep Dip
 Shingles
 Silk, raw
 Tea
 Wood
 Lumber
 Barbed Wire
 Wool, for carpets

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The amount of membership dues paid to the National Association so far this year has been below that for the corresponding part of last year. In some cases there may be confusion in the minds of our members as to the arrangements for paying dues through state organizations. To prevent possible confusion on this point and further to prevent delay in furnishing the association with necessary funds to pay expenses the following statement is made for the information and guidance of those interested:

The regular annual dues are to be paid in amounts equal to one cent per head of sheep and lambs sold during the year, with a minimum of \$5. Collections are not being made at the markets this year and members not paying through their state organizations should remit direct to the National Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City.

Under a special plan arranged last winter, the state associations of Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah are

handling the collection of National Association dues in those states, though members in those states can remit direct to the National office if they desire to do so.

Payment of membership dues covers a subscription to the National Wool Grower.

Wool growers in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wyoming, who have not paid for 1926, should send checks for dues in the National Association to Salt Lake City.

RAILROAD RATES TO THE RAM SALE

Summer tourist tickets to Salt Lake and return can be used by those attending the ram sale August 30, 31 and September 1.

These summer tourist tickets are good until late in the season and in most cases are sold at rates only slightly higher than the one way charge.

For those in near-by territory where summer rates are not in effect the Oregon Short Line will sell tickets to Salt Lake and return at one and one-half fare, going on August 29 and good to return up to September 5. Other lines are expected to offer the same rate from all points not covered by the summer tourist rates.

All persons planning to attend the ram sale should inquire in advance at their home ticket offices regarding rates in effect to Salt Lake City.

COLORADO WOOL GROWERS PLAN STATE ORGANIZATION

A number of Colorado wool growers met on July 23, at Grand Junction to arrange for the organization of an active state-wide association.

The state has had six local associations that have given good service. The officers of these bodies have found that many questions with which they deal are also of interest to the other bodies and there is need for a single association with officers authorized and qualified to speak and act

for the industry of the whole state in connection with federal or state legislation, tax matters, marketing, and in the other lines of activity in which sheepmen can cooperate for their fair and mutual advantage.

E. D. Blodgett of Grand Junction and

James Brown of Montrose acted as president and secretary. Messrs. Hotchkiss, McNally and Monaghan were named to draw up a constitution and by-laws for a state association. Their report will be considered at a meeting to be held at Grand Junction on September 6.

Those "Direct" Lamb Shipments from Denver

To The Wool Grower:

We noted in the July Wool Grower the various articles regarding the marketing of sheep, one of which made reference to the effect of "direct" shipments of lambs, purchased by the packers at Denver. Inasmuch as this article cast reflections on the judgement of range men and feeders in marketing at Denver, we feel some reply should be made.

The range sheepman is most interested in the market during August, September and October. A study of the market and the arrival of direct shipments at Chicago from August 15, to November 1, 1925, from the record of the U. S. Bureau of Markets of the Department of Agriculture, reveals the following:

For Week Ending	No. of Directs at Chicago	Market Variation For Week
Aug. 15	14,000	25 Higher
Aug. 22	4,000	50 Lower
Aug. 29	6,000	25 Higher
Sept. 5	11,000	25 to 50 Higher
Sept. 12	4,000	25 to 50 Higher
Sept. 19	12,000	25 to 40 Lower
Sept. 26	15,000	75 to \$1.00 Lower
Oct. 3	15,000	\$1.00 to \$1.25 Higher
Oct. 10	17,000	Steady
Oct. 17	16,000	75 cents to \$1.00 Lower
Oct. 24	5,000	25 Higher
Oct. 31	2,000	15 to 25 Higher

It will be noted that during August, the week with the largest number of direct's, August 15th with 14,000, the market for the week was 25 cents higher. The following week with only 4,000, it was 50 cents lower. About the same thing was duplicated in September and October, the figures showing that direct's had no effect whatever on market fluctuations. One week in October with 15,000 direct's, the market was a dollar higher, another with 17,000 was steady and still another with 16,000 showed a dollar lower. Had direct

shipments any bearing on the market, it would have shown up during October.

Direct shipments come to Chicago from other points besides Denver. Many originate on the range in various states, while other markets such as Nashville, Louisville and others provide some. Before Denver entered the lists as a sheep market, very little mention was made of direct shipments, however now any arrival of direct's at Chicago is credited to Denver which is not the case.

The inference has been left that practically all packer purchases at Denver are forwarded to Chicago for slaughter. During the month of August, 1925, packer purchases at Denver totaled 65,521 head. Direct arrivals at Chicago for this month totaled 24,000. Had all of them originated at Denver, it would have equalled only 35 per cent of the Denver packer buy. In September, packer purchases at Denver totaled 90,366 head with total direct arrivals at Chicago from all sources of 42,000 head, less than 50 per cent of the Denver purchases, providing all came from Denver.

Another statement often made is that direct's from Denver are loaded to arrive at Chicago on Monday and are used to lower the market on that week's supply. During the month of October, 1925, which is a representative month, Chicago received from all sources 55,000 head of direct's. Total receipts of direct's on Mondays and Tuesdays for the entire month totaled 15,500 head according to the Government reports, leaving 39,500 or over 70 per cent arriving the other four days. This makes for even distribution and economical slaughtering.

Mr. Sproat and Mr. Matheson at the Boise meeting in January discussed this question. Both had investigated it thoroughly, one from the producer and one from the packer side. Each agreed it was a good influence on the market and of assistance in maintaining a steady price and even arrivals. Mr. Sproat stated on direct question that after investigation, he did not feel direct's were used to lower the market. Mr. Matheson said they were bought to maintain a steady market, both in price and arrivals and were the most steadying influence the market had.

The year 1925 was the steadiest in price and arrivals for many years. Lambs were a good price the entire year. Incidentally packer purchases at Denver were the heaviest in history, 1,100,000 fat lambs being sold at Denver. We believe that had a lot to do with the steady market and efficient distribution and that anyone making an unbiased investigation of the matter will agree. The article mentioned that at Omaha in 1924 and 1925 they had very few gluts. These two years witnessed the heaviest sale of fat lambs in Denver's history. Could not the good results and elimination of gluts at Omaha, for example, have been brought about by the increased receipts at Denver? If the million fat lambs sold at Denver in 1925 had gone to two or three other points for sale, thereby swelling their already large receipts, would it not have resulted in excess arrivals? Our claim that increased receipts at Denver is responsible for the elimination of these gluts at eastern points is borne out by the facts and is much sounder than one that direct shipments have any adverse effect on the market.

Over a year's period, around 40 per cent of the Denver packer buy goes to Chicago as direct's. The balance are slaughtered at Denver or are distributed to such points as Ft. Worth, St. Paul, Sioux City, St. Louis, Jersey City, New York, Boston and many other points which may be permanently or temporarily short. Had the statement and advice of some been followed, the above 1,100,000 fat lambs disposed of at Denver and distributed from there would have been concentrated at two or three markets farther east. We seriously question whether this

would have been as good for the industry as distribution among fifteen or more other slaughtering points through sale at Denver.

There are many other savings to be accomplished through marketing at Denver, such as making it possible for the packers to have lambs every day at all points, thereby effecting large savings in slaughter expense, killing the lambs empty off the cars which accomplishes the same thing, evening receipts at all points instead of a "feast" at one and a "famine" at another, supplying certain centers with choice range lambs which did not formerly receive them, thereby encouraging consumption, avoiding expensive and unnecessary backhauls, either alive or dressed, by diverting at Denver en route at the through rate to the point needed, elimination of

one or two heavy feeds by one light feed or none depending on the destination and many others.

Orderly marketing and efficient distribution has occupied the attention of flockmasters for many years. It is as desirable and necessary to the producer as well as the packer. The packer can distribute lambs from Denver much better than the producer or any of his organizations. Concentration of shipments for sale at Denver does this. To sum it all up, the average in prices the past three years has been higher than ever before. Receipts of fat lambs at Denver have also been the largest in history, proving that centralized distribution through Denver must have been a large factor in these generally higher prices.

L. M. Pexton, Traffic Manager,
Denver Union Stock Yard Co.

Distribution of Lambs by Commission Houses

The record of our market for the coming ten weeks will show the efficiency or inefficiency of the way in which lambs are marketed by those who raise them and by the commission salesmen employed.

The extent of recent contracting on the range makes it appear that the number of lambs going to feedlots this fall without reporting at stockyard markets will be larger than was indicated some weeks ago. This should lessen the danger of congestion and price breaks through heavy receipts of fat and feeder lambs at the same markets on the same days.

Much of the recent contracting, however, has been done in lambs having only a small proportion of feeders. The speculators handling lambs that are ready for slaughter do not generally give much consideration to the idea of delaying sales when markets are uncertain. These operations are students of the market and while they may time their shipments to reach the markets on days expected to show steady and strong prices, yet the large number of shipments which they

sell enables them to average the good turns against the bad in a way to secure a profit from the total of the season's shipments. An unfavorable market makes opportunity to buy lower in the country and the profits on the lower priced shipments may offset losses on other lots. The commission salesmen who handle the business of the speculative operators are not in a position to cooperate with other salesmen in respect to hastening or delaying the arrival at the markets of such consignments held at the nearby feed stations.

It is a well-known fact that on many days during the heavy shipping season some of the river markets are short of supplies while other markets have such large receipts that prices are lowered at all points. The concerns that slaughter at the market having a light run must nevertheless buy at the price prevailing at the other markets. If they did not do so they would have to sell a high-cost carcass in the eastern cities in competition with the carcasses purchased at lower figures on the other markets. It undoubt-

edly is possible for more shippers to benefit themselves by conferring more carefully with their salesmen and being ready, when diversion of shipments is practical, to change their billing or at least to send a part of a large shipment to some of the markets likely to be under supplied. When such is done the shipper should consider himself the gainer if the markets only remain steady. Without the diversion of such shipments the larger receipts at the other markets would usually result in a lower price there with the extension of that lower price to all the markets.

The efforts being made by the National Wool Growers Association this year to secure a more even distribution of lambs relate chiefly to cooperation between shippers and commission salesmen with a view to preventing in part the congested conditions that frequently have occurred at Chicago in September and October and particularly on Mondays. It safely can be considered that if Chicago should have many Monday receipts of 40,000 or over serious prices drops will occur. The larger number of lambs produced this year is not sufficient to affect seriously the market if a little precaution is taken to regulate shipments in a way that will be helpful to both sellers and buyers.

Many of the commission houses at Chicago are making great efforts to accomplish the desired kind of distribution. A tabulation of figures received by the National Wool Growers Association from a number of Chicago concerns shows that a few of them never market as much as 25 per cent of their week's receipts on Monday. It is surprising to know how largely these houses utilize Wednesday and Thursday markets to dispose of their consigned shipments. These concerns are the ones whose representatives secure and study the reports obtainable on Sunday regarding the number of cars of natives that had been loaded to arrive on Monday and also the number of cars intended to be ordered in from the feedyards by other salesmen.

The 1925 market was an unusually stable market and sheepmen will be fortunate if the prices for the balance of

this season are no more variable than they were one year ago. However, there was one serious break in the 1925 market, which was discussed at the time in the National Wool Grower and was also up for consideration at the Boise convention. During the week of September 21st to 25th the top quotation on lambs at Chicago declined to \$14.60 from the high point of \$16.25 reached on Tuesday of the previous week. The receipts during the week in which this low point was reached amounted to 93,000 head. Of these 28,000 or 31 per cent were on the market on Monday. In the following week 95,000 were marketed and yet prices advanced, reaching \$16.00 on Friday. It may be said that the dressed meat market was in better condition during the second of these weeks. Even if such had been the case it is much more reasonable to suppose that the better distribution of the latter week was responsible for the improvement. Instead of bringing 30 per cent of the week's business on Monday as was done on September 21, only 21 per cent of the weeks receipts were received on Monday, September 28.

Most of the commission houses are willing and able to give greater service in preventing price breaks if their shippers will encourage and support them in so doing. Those that have not been putting forth their best efforts in cooperating with other firms in this undertaking will not do so unless their customers require it. There is no need for misunderstanding as to what is expected or wanted. No one expects complete stabilization of prices, but avoidance of some of the breaks that mainly are due to bad distribution is easily possible. The chart of the market receipts and prices for this fall's market will be of unusual interest. It will be published in the November or December issue of this paper. Those who have not carefully considered this subject should examine the material presented on page 26 and 27 of the January issue of the National Wool Grower.

ORDER YOUR CARS EARLY!

Nothing will be lost and a great deal may be gained by filing orders for sheep

cars as far as possible in advance of the expected date of loading.

Last year some shipments of lambs were delayed in getting to market because of inability of railroads to furnish cars when wanted. The carriers are doing a large business this year and need full advance information as to when and where stock cars will be wanted. These cars are not extensively used in the fall for other purposes but the railroad men need all the time they can be given to get their cars back from the markets and from other lines.

Early order of cars will also make more accurate the reports now made by the roads to the association regarding current and prospective shipments to the market. These reports are of great value in the study and work of distribution of receipts.

The shipper will help himself, the railroad and the market by ordering cars early, and ordering only once.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK LOAN COMPANY ORGANIZED AT LAKEVIEW, OREGON

Livestock men, particularly the sheepmen from Lake and Klamath counties, have recently arranged to avail themselves of credit facilities of the Intermediate Credit Bank of Spokane, a bank which was organized by the United States government for the express purpose of relief to the stockmen by granting longer time loans at a lower rate of interest than can be granted by commercial banks.

Recently a livestock loan company was incorporated at Lakeview, Oregon, with a paid in capital of \$50,000.00. The officers and directors are all men thoroughly familiar with the livestock industry. The following is the personnel of the new company:

F. M. Miller, president; W. V. Miller, secretary-treasurer; J. C. Flynn, vice-president; Con. J. O'Keeffe; Ned Sherlock; Mitchell Tillotson, assistant secretary-treasurer; C. D. Arthur, inspector.

These men are also stockholders and officers in the Commercial National Bank of Lakeview, an institution which has for many years extended credit to the live-

stock men of southern and central Oregon and attained an excellent reputation as a livestock bank.

Speaking of the new organization, Mr. F. M. Miller, president, states that the forming of the new company means a good outlet for conservative livestock loans. "We are particularly pleased and fortunate to learn of the recent reduction in interest rate for funds procured from the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Spokane. This reduction will make it possible for us to extend credit to our borrowers for one year's time at not to exceed seven and one-fourth per cent."

Mr. W. E. Meyer, assistant manager of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Spokane, has just returned from a two weeks' trip through Klamath and Lake counties, making a series of inspections of commercial livestock loans with Mr. C. D. Arthur, inspector. He reports most of the wool sold in this section at prices ranging from 29 to 30½ cents. Spring range has been good, and sheepmen as a rule report an excellent lamb crop, but exceedingly hot weather with dry range may result in some of the lambs being light in weight. Recent reports state that wether lambs are selling readily at \$6.50 per head in this section, while ewe lambs bring as high as \$8.00. Twenty-five hundred wether lambs were recently contracted by a California buyer for \$7.00 per head.

TEXAS SALE AND CONVENTION

At the Texas Sheep and Goat Sale, July 27-29, 16 head of Rambouillet stud rams sold at an average price of \$188. The highest price was received for a ram sold by W. C. Pendleton, Parowan, Utah, \$850. Six hundred seventeen head of range rams brought an average price of \$46.50. Thirteen stud Angora bucks averaged \$180, with a high price of \$887, received by C. A. Thomas & Son, Oakland, Kentucky.

On account of the sickness of our Texas correspondent, the report of the Texas convention and show did not reach the Wool Grower by the time this issue went to press.

Around the Range Country

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comments and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

Warm, dry weather has been the rule, though summer thundershowers over practically the entire state excepting only the far western portion, have kept up rather well as a rule. Live stock have generally been in excellent condition, excepting only locally where some shrinkage was reported due to droughty ranges. The second alfalfa hay crop is generally good; but much of the native hay crop, particularly in the west, has not done so well.

IDAHO

The weather has been abnormally warm and dry, and lower pastures have become rather poor as a rule, in fact very poor in places; but the higher areas have con-

tinued good in most respects, and live stock have done well. Some lamb shipments were reported due to shortage of range forage; and lamb shipments to market have been general, especially in the southeastern counties where showers tended to keep the ranges up in the mountain areas.

MONTANA

Typical warm, dry summer weather prevailed, with numerous light, local showers in the mountains which kept the higher grazing ranges in rather good condition. Over the lower, eastern portion of the state, however, the lack of rain has reduced the pasturage appreciably, and forced the shipping of many cattle. The marketing of cattle has begun elsewhere in places. Range hay will be short, but the second alfalfa hay crop was very good. Other meadow hay has made fair growth generally.

Miles City

Very dry weather during July has resulted in poor feed on the summer range in this vicinity. The lamb crop is larger for this time of year than in 1925; some feeder lambs were contracted during July for fall delivery at ten cents. The heaviest shipments of our lambs to market oc-

curs during the first ten days of October. Some yearling ewes have recently changed hands at \$10.75.

John Cameron.

OREGON

Exceptionally dry weather has prevailed over the state, and much of the time temperatures have been high. The second alfalfa crop has been harvested and locally the third crop is making good growth, though rain is badly needed. The mountain ranges continued to furnish ample forage for live stock, animals mostly being in fine shape; the dairy herds, however, have shown some depreciation, due to short range.

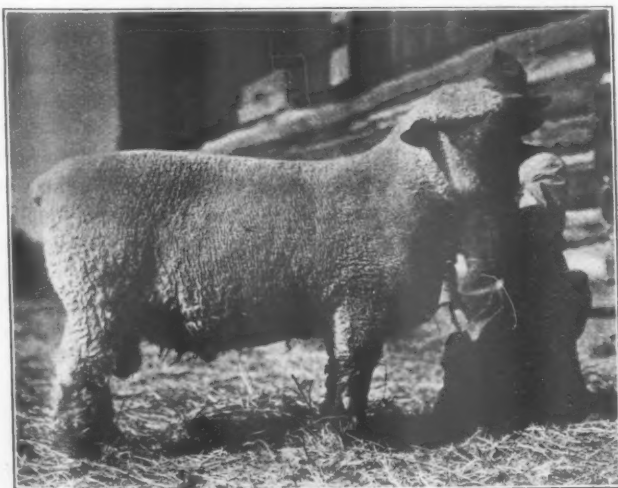
Prineville

This has been a very dry summer. Feed was good until June, but since then both feed and water have been scarce. Ten cents is the price at which our feeder lambs were contracted. The lamb crop was larger than last year.

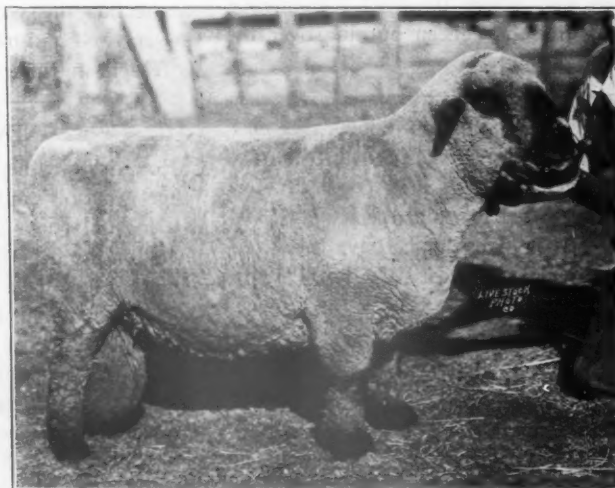
Canyon City

No rain and unusually dry since July 1, and the feed is getting very dry for this time of the year.

Ideal weather prevailed during lambing season and there are slightly more lambs



Hampshire Stud from Mt. Haggin L. & L. S. Company, Montana, entered in the Ram Sale



Thousand Springs Farm's Champion Stud Ram "Commander." The Sire of several entries in the 1926 Ram Sale

this year than last. Most lambs are shipped out of this section in August and September. Buyers have already contracted for some mixed lambs at 11 cents to be delivered at Burns. Buyers of feeder lambs (wether) are offering 10 cents at the railroad, but local sheepmen are holding for that price and want the lambs weighed up nearer their range, rather than take the long dry trail this year.

Dick Richards.

Stanfield

This has been a very dry year; water is scarce and many springs that never before have failed are bone dry. Some are hauling water; others are making troughs to catch the small streams. Because it has been so dry and hot, the sheep have had to be herded, although the feed has been fairly good, though short.

Eleven cents was paid for one lot of white-faced mixed ewes and wether lambs during July. Our heaviest movement of lambs is in August.

C. E. Cleveland.

WASHINGTON

Droughty weather has prevailed, and many streams and springs over eastern counties have dried up the first time in many years. While ample feed for stock is reported from the greater portion of the state, short ranges and pastures in some localities have forced the premature marketing of cattle. Alfalfa, however, has done well where irrigated. Numerous forest fires have been burning over the state.

Burke

June and July have been dry months, but range feed is fairly good. A few yearling ewes have sold recently at \$13.00 a head; not many lambs have been contracted during the past sixty days.

Ramon Escure

Yakima

We had one week of extremely warm weather during July, but the balance of the month was just right. Summer feed has been good up to date (July 29), but prospects are not very favorable for

August. We have raised about ten per cent more lambs this year than in 1925. There has been no contracting done here lately for fall delivery. Most of our lambs are shipped out during August. Haven't heard of any activity in ewes recently.

I keep my sheep on the ranch the year round. My greatest trouble is with sheep killing dogs; second to it, stomach worms and foxtail in the eyes; and then the coyotes. The last named pest is worse now than they have been for ten years.

Dan Goodman

CALIFORNIA

Foggy weather along the coast, and moderately high temperatures over the interior valleys, with comparatively little rain have characterized the weather. The mountain areas have had some light showers, and ranges have continued fairly good over these areas. Live stock on the public ranges have thus fared rather well, though domestic herds, particularly dairy cattle have had poor pastures much of the time, due to droughty weather. Alfalfa has done well as a rule, where irrigated.

Cloverdale

July was a very warm, dry month, but the feed is still very good on the summer range. earling ewes have recently been sold here at from \$9 to \$12 per head and those of mixed ages at about an \$8 average.

While there was a good lamb crop in this section this year, the lambs did not do very well and most of them were sold as feeders in July. Capell Bros.

NEVADA

Hot, dry weather has depreciated the range generally and the lower areas are offering only poor feed and poorer prospects for the near future. However, the higher ranges have continued good and live stock have put on flesh satisfactorily as a rule. Lack of water has prevented the use of some ranges where feed was good. Many shipments of both cattle and sheep have been made, averaging somewhat earlier than usual. Domestic pastures are very short due to drought. The second hay crop was good locally

under irrigation, but generally the crop was light.

NEW MEXICO

Good weather has prevailed most of the time in most sections and ranges and live stock average good or excellent. However some of the ranges are dry and browning, and are greatly in need of rain to produce autumn and winter pasturage. Forage crops are mostly doing well.

WESTERN TEXAS

Rains have generally been ample for the range and grasses have continued good. Consequently live stock have averaged in good condition, some being excellent and some only fair. Temperatures have averaged near or somewhat below normal of late.

Del Rio

The past month, July, was very warm, but we had some rain which helped matters. Our range—summer and winter ranges are the same here—has been the best in many years.

Our 1925 crop of lambs was the smallest in many years, but the 1926 drop is the best in many years. Very few lambs have been contracted; buyers were offering about \$5.50 the first part of July, but are doing better now. Our big shipping season is during September and October.

Emery L. Davis.

ARIZONA

The droughty conditions of May and June have been succeeded by showery weather generally over the grazing areas, and ranges have revived very satisfactorily as a rule. Water supplies have been low here and there, but generally the watering places have afforded ample supplies for live stock. Live stock have held up rather well on the depreciated ranges, and making gradual improvement at present. Oats and other grains used for hay are doing fairly well.

St. Johns

I am not in the sheep game at the present time as I sold out last year, but expect to get back in again this fall.

(Continued on page 44)

Arizona and Wyoming Summer Convention

Annual State Conventions in Arizona and Wyoming---Important Questions Considered and Policies Outlined by Wool Growers

ARIZONA, JULY 13-14

"One of the best wool growers' conventions ever held." Such was the enthusiastic statement made by nearly every member of the large crowd that spent July 13th and 14th, with the Arizona Wool Growers' Association in its fortieth annual convention at Flagstaff.

Sheepmen from all parts of Arizona, together with their wives, officials of numerous associations, forest service officials, railroad and shipping officials, commission men, and various state officials—all were on hand and highly pleased with the convention.

A large proportion of Arizona wool growers have their summer headquarters in Flagstaff and towns near by. The high summer ranges and national forests are in this northern section from which the bands are trailed southward for wintering and lambing, although some of the ewes do not lamb until they return to the summer range. Some of the lambs dropped earliest go to market before the northward movement to summer range.

Confidence and optimism were in evidence as a result of more favorable seasonal conditions than have prevailed during the preceeding four years. It has been a long and hard pull for the industry and not all of the good men have survived. The drouth was broken last fall in time to help make a better lamb crop this spring, and with range questions promising to become more stable, owners are hopeful and determined to do everything possible as individuals and by co-operating with their fellows in the association to make their business efficient and secure.

About one-third of Arizona's million sheep are on Indian reservations and but slightly represented in the organization. Over fifty per cent of the balance are owned by association members. Last year two and one half cents was paid into the association for each ewe owned by members. Additional amounts were paid

in some cases for special work done under the supervision of the officers upon the trails traveled by the spring and fall migrations.

President Johns reviewed the work of the association during the year, referring especially to the mid-winter meeting at Phoenix and the work of the officers in connection with range, national forest, and tax matters. He also discussed the operation of the Arizona workmen's compensation act in relation to employees of sheep men, the lowered rates for shipping wool to Los Angeles for transfer to ships, and the defeat of proposed Federal legislation that would have interfered with the employment of Mexican labor by agricultural and industrial concerns.

All the way through, the convention was held to business like discussion of local and outside matters affecting all angles of the industry in Arizona. An executive session, for members only, was held, at which the treasurer's report was presented, the work of the new year outlined, policies decided upon and special committees appointed to deal with legislative and other pending matters.

President Hagenbarth, of the National Association, spoke with particular reference to the tariff and wool marketing, showing that payment by wool growers for organization work of a small fraction of the extra amounts they have received as a result of work done for them in connection with the wool duty, would insure other and equally valuable results. "The 1926 wool price was mainly made by wool growers and was unduly low because of their necessity to sell and lack of information regarding the wool situation," was one of the assertions made by President Hagenbarth.

The Secretary of the National Association made an informal report of the work and plans of his office, stressing closer co-operation between the various state bodies for mutual advantages and to strengthen the national body for more effective activity in marketing work and

in other lines of business service to the industry.

James A. Hooper, secretary of the Utah Association, explained in detail the handling of loans received through the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks by members of the Utah Wool Marketing Association. W. A. Denecke, superintendent of the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho, presented records and findings of wool and lamb production investigations conducted at that station. Other addresses were made by Professors Stanley and Parr of the Arizona University, Frank Pooler, forester for the U. S. National Forest district three, J. A. Hooper, of the American Hawaiian Steamship Company, and C. S. Brown, who represented the Arizona Industrial Congress and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

A banquet and dance provided entertainment on the evening of the first convention day. Mrs H. C. Lockett, who is a large sheep owner and active in the association work, entertained at her home on the second day for guests and members of the association.

The following officers were elected:

A. A. Johns, president; C. E. Burton, 1st vice-president; E. H. Duffield, 2nd vice-president; Aubrey Gist, 3rd vice-president.

Board of Directors

Colin Campbell, chairman, Ashfork; Lou Charlebois, Wickenburg; T. L. Hudspeth, Seligman; T. E. Pollock, Flagstaff; E. A. Sawyer, Winslow; Geo. H. Wilbur, Heber; Wm. Wilkins, Prescott.

State Advisory Board

John Hennessy, chairman; Nathan Bankhead, James Scott, M. Candelaria, Fred Porter, Luther Hart, and Dan Fain.

The following resolutions relative to the tariff and to grazing on government lands were adopted:

Tariff

WHEREAS: The present tariff is levied in such a manner as to procure the needed protec-

tion to American production; and to return the greatest revenue to the Government while carrying the least burden to the consumer, and

WHEREAS: Under the present law every important agricultural crop has been given a fair degree of protection, while very important commodity used by the farmer in the production and harvesting of his crop has been placed on the free list, including lumber, shingles, coal, petroleum, lime, cement, phosphates, all agricultural implements, cream separators, leather, boots and shoes, etc.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: by the Arizona Wool Growers Association that the present law should be continued undisturbed.

Grazing on the National Forests and the Public Domain

This association has in the past placed itself on record in regard to the Grazing Bill, officially known as "S. B. 2584."

There seems to be no particular objection to Titles 3, 4 and 5, which have to do with the grazing use of the National Forests. While it is subject to criticism and does not contain the provisions that we were led to believe would be included in that Bill, in relation to the Forests, and more particularly the omission of any real Board of Appeals, which we have been asking for, for many years, and to which we feel we are entitled, yet on the whole we endorse the grazing measure as it pertains to the National Forests.

Titles 1 and 2 of the Act, which relate to the regulation of grazing on the public domain do not in any way meet the requirements of the livestock industry of Arizona.

We, therefore, respectfully go on record as being opposed to Titles 1 and 2 of this bill, knowing that if the same were put into effect it would be the death blow to the sheep industry of this State.

We further request and demand that if any legislation is passed in regard to the public domain, Arizona be exempted from the provisions of the Stanfield Bill, the same as the State of Wyoming. The conditions in Arizona are no different than the conditions in Wyoming, and we respectfully ask that we be exempted from all the provisions relating to the public domain.

In other resolutions adopted the association endorsed the plan of co-operation with the Biological Survey in the control of predatory animals; favored the identification of substitutes for virgin wool; expressed appreciation of the National Wool Grower; and asked for organization of departments of the State University to secure and distribute information as to supplies and costs of live stock.

WYOMING, JULY 15-17

The twenty-third annual convention of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, according to reports from all sources, was far and away the best ever held. The gathering convened at Thermopolis on July 15 and continued through three days, with an attendance of over three hundred

and fifty. A better representation of the entire state was secured and keener interest in the discussions was manifested than ever before.

The sessions were well planned and included both set addresses and discussions on a variety of subjects. Among the prominent speakers was Senator J. B. Kendrick, who expressed his opposition to any changes in the present tariff on wool and sugar and discussed the grazing bill now before the Senate, with particular reference to the public domain section of it, to which he declared his opposition. The healthy condition of the sheep industry at present was considered by E. M. Hughes, secretary of the Chicago Live Stock Exchange and also by E. N. Wentworth, director of Armour's Livestock Bureau. The facilities offered by federal intermediate credit banks in securing loans were outlined by D. F. Hogan, president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Omaha, and better methods in marketing wool were discussed by Matt Staff, president of the National Wool Exchange. The state of Wyoming was officially represented by Governor Ross, Frank E. Lucas, secretary of state, and Frank Emerson, state engineer.

"Shall Wyoming Have an Annual Ram Sale?" was the subject opened for discussion by G. M. Penley, secretary of the Natrona County Stock Growers Association. No decision was reached on this matter as there was a considerable difference of opinion among the pure-bred breeders. Mr. A. R. Smith, dairy food and oil commissioner, gave the results of his analysis, during the past winter, of a number of samples of cotton seed cake which was shipped into Wyoming. It was found by Mr. Smith that some of the cake received was deficient in protein and on this account refunds were secured from the sellers. Present plans are that a still greater number of samples of imported cake will be analyzed this coming winter.

A lively discussion was occasioned by the talk made by E. J. Farlow, president of the State Board of Sheep Commission-

ers, on the scab situation in Wyoming. Particular stress was laid by some of the participants in the discussion that dipping in black leaf 40 had not cured the scab. Another subject that elicited great interest was "Fattening Lambs in Wyoming" as handled by W. L. Quale, who is superintendent of the Wyoming State Farms. There is a big increase in the number of sheepmen entering into this phase of the business and on that account Mr. Quale's talk was well received. Mr. J. H. King led the discussion on "What Shall We Do with the Range Horse," which resulted in a decision to seek the passage of a law similar to that now in force in Montana. Considerable difference of opinion was in evidence in regard to a district herd law, which was considered by F. S. King, Cheyenne Wyoming, and no decision was reached in regard to it. The need for more live stock trails was brought out in the comments made following Marvin L. Bishop's talk on that subject. Mr. Bishop is attorney for the Natrona County Stock Growers Association.

Dean J. A. Hill, of the University of Wyoming, brought out some very interesting points in regard to the effects of culling for wool production and Malcolm Moncreiffe concluded the discussions with a very entertaining talk on "The Advantage of Better Breeding."

All of the old officers were reelected, as follows: Kleber H. Hadsell, president; Thomas Cooper, vice-president; and J. B. Wilson, secretary-treasurer. David Dickie of Thermopolis, Frank R. Tollman of Otto and Frank Yates of Rock Springs were the only new members appointed to serve on the executive committee. Lander was chosen as the place for the 1927 convention.

The truth-in-fabric question was discussed extensively, particularly with reference to the enforcement of the Wyoming law as revised a year ago. At the opening of the convention the officers were informed that the merchants against whom complaints had been lodged for failure to label fabrics according to the new law had decided to plead guilty. The convention instructed the officers to con-

tinue the enforcement of the law. It is expected that other cases will be brought.

Resolutions were adopted asking maintenance of the present tariff; asking a reduction in the rental of state lands; urging the establishment of necessary stock trails, no land within the present livestock trails to be restored to entry without opportunity of stockmen to protest; condemning the marking of "shoddy" as all wool; instructing the executive committee to seek stringent enforcement of the state truth-in-fabric act; asking that all grazing moneys collected by the government be paid to states for roads and schools; that all moneys from sale of furs taken by the predatory animal commission be returned to that body for further work;



A W. W. Pendleton, Utah, Stud Entry

opposing enlargement of national parks, forests or game preserves; indorsing the national wool exchange; demanding uniform valuation of state land at \$2 an acre; asking for open season on bear; asking direct taxation on sheep for maintenance of the sheep inspection commission; approving the present state wild horse law, similar to the Montana law; asking the board of trustees of the Wyoming University for a large wool-scouring testing plant; asking improvement in the grading of all meat; asking inspection of all sheep being removed from areas infected with scabies, except for direct shipment out of state.

PROTESTS MADE TO ENLARGEMENT OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

President Coolidge's Commission on National Park and Forest Co-ordination held hearings in San Francisco on August

2 on the proposed enlargement of Yosemite National Park. The members of the commission included Congressman Henry W. Temple of Pennsylvania, chairman; Colonel W. B. Greeley, chief, U. S. Forest Service; Barrington Moore of New York; Duncan McDuffie, Sierra Club, Berkeley; and Stephen A. Mather, director National Park Service. They had previously cruised the land under consideration as an addition to the park and at the meeting on August 2 gave opportunity to all interested to present their views on the matter. Vigorous protests were entered against the proposal by representatives of the sheep and cattle industry, the Farm Bureau, the Forest Service, development companies, civic



A Ballard Hampshire Stud Ram

organizations and the mining and lumber interests. Sherwood Green of Madera, California, representing the Jackass Cattle Association and the San Joaquin District Wool Growers Association, presented to the commission in some detail the economic uses to which the land under consideration is now being put, and his statements were supported by the testimony given by W. P. Wing, secretary of the California Wool Growers Association, R. M. Hagen, secretary of the state cattlemen's organization, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and others. The point of view of the recreationists, who are principally interested in securing the annexation, was expressed by members of the Sierra Club. They were very frank in stating that they hoped "to see in the near future the elimination of all sheep grazing from the high Sierras of California." The commission has not yet made public the nature of its recommendations to the President.

ANNUAL MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK AND MEAT BOARD

The members of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, composed of representatives of all branches of the live stock and meat industry, met in Chicago on June 28th and 29th for their annual meeting. The officers of the board were all reelected, as follows: D. A. Millet, Denver, Colorado, chairman; Thomas E. Wilson, president of Wilson and Company, vice-chairman; Everett C. Brown, president of the Chicago Live Stock Exchange, treasurer; and R. C. Pollock, secretary and managing director.

The purpose of the board's organization



Steve Gillett's, Idaho, Top Single Ram

was primarily to institute and encourage scientific research into the value of meat in the diet and to put the results obtained before the consuming public. Reports on the past year's work along these lines were presented to the board for consideration and decision as to future activities.

In connection with the program in scientific investigation two fellowships have been established at the University of Rochester for the study of meat as a blood regenerator and the value of meat in rearing the young. The results of the research into these two questions as far as it has gone up to the present time are being published in medical journals and their influence and effect are already being felt. The American Medical Association, which issues charts on food for educational purposes, has heretofore omitted meat, but in the new charts put out by them, meat is given its proper

place. It is interesting to note that in their chart "Food-Iron", beef is placed first for the highest content of iron in a customary helping. A continuation of this research work was voted by the board and funds were appropriated for it.

The experiments conducted by Dr. James R. Slonaker of Stanford University during the past twelve years in regard to the value of meat were also reported at the meeting. The results of Dr. Slonaker's investigation point quite conclusively to the fact that a mixed diet which includes meat is much more beneficial than a strictly vegetarian one.

Another investigational project that has occupied the attention of the National Live Stock and Meat Board is the study of the factors that influence the quality and palatability of meat. This work was launched two years ago, but soon after received the support of the Bureau of Animal Industry, the American Society of Animal Production, and twenty-nine state agricultural experiment stations, so that the matter has now assumed a national scope. The report, as given to the board by Dr. E. W. Sheets of the Bureau of Animal Industry, showed that a good start in the undertaking has been made. However, with so many important factors to be considered, such as feed, sex, age, finish, grade and type, for each of which a standard of measurement must be formulated, progress has been slow, but will probably be quite steady from now on. The board continued its endorsement of this work with further appropriations.

The final report of the series of studies made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on "Methods and Practices in Retailing Meats," "Margins, Expenses and Profits" and "Consumer Demand" was presented by Dr. L. S. Tenny, chief of that bureau. An appropriation for this survey was made by Congress in 1924, but the National Live Stock and Meat Board has been cooperating in the work. The results which are very interesting are now available in bulletin form.

The educational program of the board as carried on by Director Pollock last year was highly commended and endorsed for continuance during the coming year, par-

ticularly in the large consuming centers of the East. The past year's work has included schools for housewives, radio talks, a meat story contest, and the publication of recipe books. Also, the elimination of statements in various advertisements derogatory to meat has been secured.

The board also voiced its approval of the grading and marking of all federally-inspected meats in the carcass, but no definite action was taken to secure it.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL GROWERS AND SELLERS MEET

By A. G. Mills

A recent event of importance to Australian wool interests was the annual joint conference between the Australian Woolgrowers Council and the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia. The principal decision arrived at related to the wool selling policy for Australia during the next twelve months. It was estimated the offerings of wool for the year would be 2,242,500 bales, and it was decided to auction 1,220,000 before Christmas, and the balance of 1,022,500 after Christmas, finishing the main selling season by about March 31st next, leaving Queensland to hold her usual winter sales during the months of April, May and June. The opening sale is to be held in Sydney on August 30th, in Brisbane on September 14th, in Adelaide on September 10th, Perth on September 21st, and Melbourne on September 27th.

Other matters discussed were freights, wool insurance, and the collection of wool statistics. In connection with the last mentioned the following resolution was passed:

"That in view of the importance of obtaining authentic and up-to-date information regarding the wool industry in Australia, and having regard to the serious delays in publication, and the incomplete character of the official statistics at present collected, the Commonwealth and State statisticians be approached with suggestions for improving the present methods."

The question of providing a more satisfactory wool pack was considered, and brokers were asked if they thought that growers would be recouped any additional cost in putting wool in improved bales.

The candid opinion of the brokers was that they would not be.

The joint conference was followed by the 39th convention of the Graziers Federal Council of Australia. The discussion at this covered a wide range. One of the most interesting, judging by the resolutions passed, was on the subject of synthetic wool. They deprecated the action of the Commonwealth Council for scientific and industrial research in devoting time and money on an inquiry into the possibilities of using Australian timber for the manufacture of such an article, the obvious reason that it would harm the wool industry being quoted. It was also resolved to urge the Federal government to place a prohibitive import duty on goods containing synthetic wool, and to insist that same shall be distinctly marked.

A lively recollection of the huge sums expended on fighting various imported bird and animal pests, including rabbits, doubtlessly inspired the following resolution:

"That the council take precautionary action to prevent the importation into the Commonwealth of fur-bearing animals for fur farm purposes that are likely to be a menace to the pastoral industry of Australia."

SYDNEY (AUSTRALIA) RAM SALE AND SHOW

The annual Sydney ram sale opened on July 1. The first day's selling was restricted to special stud rams to be started in the auction at not less than \$250.

Thirteen Merino rams sold at over \$2500 each. The highest price, \$6500, was paid for one of the F. B. S. Falkiner's entries from the Haddon Rig station. Mr. Falkiner secured an average of \$3900 for three head. The Austin Wanganella Company averaged \$4200 on eight head, three of these bringing \$6000 each.

(A detailed report of the sale has not been received at the time the Wool Grower goes to press.)

In the Merino section of the show, which preceded the sale, 370 head were entered. The grand champion ram was exhibited by F. D. McMaster, New South Wales, and the grand champion ewe by the Wallandro Pastoral Company. Corriedale entries increased to 116 head over 53 head shown last year.

The Government July Reports on Sheep, Wool and Lamb Prices

The government of the United States, through the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the Department of Agriculture, has announced its position on the bear side of the lamb and wool markets. In a press statement released for publication on July 26, the department said:

"Factors that department economists believe may influence unfavorably the outlook for marketing the 1926 lamb crop are the indicated increase of 10 per cent in the size of the crop, a probable increase in hog supplies next spring, and a possible slackening in business activity."

It will be noticed that the words 'may' and 'probable' and 'possible' leave the 'department economists' wide avenue for escape in case the market prices are more favorable than they expect. The only effect of such a surprising official statement is to put a weapon in the hands of the buying interests to weaken the position of the producers. Just how the Department of Agriculture expects to serve the interests of agricultural producers or of any other citizens through these voluntary and incompetent predictions of price is not apparent though perhaps the department economists can answer the question. In doing so they will of course, be liberal with their 'mays', 'possibles' and 'probables' to evade liability if called to account for the effects of errors arising from the lack of ability to forecast in the field of economics.

The Lamb Crop

A smaller crop of lambs in the native lamb states and a sixteen per cent increase over last year in thirteen range states, is the estimate of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for 1926. A net increase for the whole country of ten per cent or two million head is estimated to be on hand.

It should be borne in mind that these figures all are estimates. This is the first time that the department has attempted to estimate actual numbers of lambs, it having been customary to work out the relation of one year's crop to those of previous years in terms of percentages.

If the ten per cent increase in lamb production proves to be correct, and if it results in a corresponding increase in the slaughter of sheep and lambs, the larger supply will be sufficient to provide the equivalent of two extra lamb chops to

each resident of the United States. Hardly so difficult or unlikely a task to suggest need of serious price adjustments!

The official estimates of the number of breeding ewes and ewe lambs carried over from 1925 on hand in each state on January 1, 1926, together with the number of 1926 lambs and their percentage relation to the number of ewes is shown below. The figures for 1925 are included.

STATISTICS BY STATES
(All numbers in thousands—i. e., add 000)

State	Total Sheep on January 1		Breeding Ewes January 1		%	Lambs saved and docked, Per Cent (1) and Number		Ewe Lambs January 1	
	1925	1926	1925	1926		1925	1926	1925	1926
	Number	Number	Number	Number		Number	Number	Number	Number
Montana	2,536	2,837	1,848	2,071	82	1,571	86	1,871	517
Wyoming ..	2,808	3,032	2,151	2,225	82	1,763	85	1,891	463
Colo.	2,616	2,459	878	921	82	383	84	418	108
S. Dakota....	680	700	468	497	84	735	84	810	102
Texas	3,465	3,465	2,070	2,070	60	1,246	82	1,705	574
New Mexico	2,100	2,250	1,575	1,675	60	945	82	1,373	420
Arizona	1,115	1,211	842	884	74	623	75	663	196
Calif.	2,621	2,778	2,000	2,060	88	1,760	92	1,895	350
Wash.	549	576	417	442	103	430	105	464	84
Idaho	2,291	2,460	1,835	1,853	90	1,652	102	1,890	287
Oregon	2,011	2,112	1,462	1,558	85	1,243	92	1,433	390
Utah	2,355	2,520	1,804	1,904	78	1,407	90	1,714	360
Nevada	1,108	1,163	849	936	78	662	90	842	200
Total	26,338	27,563	18,199	19,096	79	14,420	88	16,879	4031
U. S.	39,390	40,748							4206

(1) Percentage of number of lambs to breeding ewes.

Wool Production

The government experts also estimate this year's production of shorn wool to be 15 million pounds greater than last year. The figures for twelve western states and for the country as a whole are shown below. These do not include figures for pulled wools which amount to over 40 million pounds each year.

Wool Production in 1925 and 1926

State	1925		1926	
	Wool Production	Weight Per Fleece	Wool Production	Weight Per Fleece
Texas	24960	8.0	25804	7.6
Mont.	20871	8.7	23100	8.8
Idaho	17347	8.3	19440	9.0
Wyoming ..	22360	8.6	24132	8.5
Colo.	7312	7.5	7950	7.5
N. M.	12113	5.9	12325	5.8
Ariz.	6400	6.4	7006	6.2
Utah	18040	8.8	20322	9.0
Nev.	7811	7.3	8853	8.1
Wash.	4400	8.8	4714	9.1
Oregon	16720	8.8	18400	9.2
Calif.	17950	7.5	18189	7.4
Western ..	151224	8.4	164431	8.1
U. S.	253907	7.8	269054	7.79

STUDYING THE MARKET

The Wool Grower receives two classes of comments upon its published discussion of conditions at Chicago, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Joseph and Denver

Some of our friendly critics think that these 'post mortem' reviews are of little value to the man who is perplexed as to when to ship or what price to ask for his lambs at home. It may be that some of these critics have not appreciated the change in the style of the reports as now published, especially those written by Mr. Poole from Chicago, which market is the key to the price situation at all other points.

Others of our friends say that the discussions of how the market behaved under receipts of large and small supplies, the demand and prices for dressed lambs and the gossip and activity in the feeder trade are of great help in attempting to forecast prices for the coming month and in deciding when to ship or what price to ask.

The Wool Grower asks that these market reports and the separate articles on the feeder trade and on distribution of receipts be watched carefully. Suggestions as to changes to be made, or new ideas as to what should be done by the association, the shippers, the commission men, or by all of them will be welcomed.

PACIFIC WOOL GROWERS AND DIRECTORS MEET IN CALIFORNIA

Fifty members of the Pacific Co-operative Wool Growers held a joint members-directors meeting at the San Francisco warehouse of the association on July 22 and 23.

The annual budget of the association was carefully worked out by its directors and management and approved by the members. Details of the deliveries of wool to each warehouse of the association, amounts graded, sorted and scoured and costs of operating the warehouses were checked by the directors and general approval of directors and members was expressed at the efficient method in which the warehouses were being operated.

The directors and management gave special attention to the sales program of the association for the 1926 pool and General Manager R. A. Ward reported that a considerable weight of wools have been moved to eastern mill centers where they are now being displayed and sold from the association's Boston display rooms.

In planning the extension of the association's operations for the coming year, Director Dangberg, of Nevada, advocated the adoption of a slogan, "Ten Million Pounds for 1927," and Director J. A. McBride, of Elko, Nevada, a member of the Smith Creek Land and Livestock Company asks each member, "Have you got your new member?"

Plans were outlined for the holding of a members-directors meeting in the Pacific Northwest.

Those present were J. D. Yaeger, of Simpson, Nevada; H. F. Dangberg, Minden, Nevada; J. A. McBride, Elko, Nevada; J. H. Peterson, Dixon; Domingo Bidegaray, Fresno; F. Stephens, Woodland; W. E. Steinbeck, Petaluma; Ralph King, Milford; C. H. Doolittle, Ukiah; Dr. E. E. Brownell, San Francisco; H. E. Bigelow, O'Neals; D. H. Prior, Eureka; (all of California). Jas. M. Davis, Pullman, Washington; W. B. Barnett, Heppner; C. L. Beckley, Rosenberg; E. A. McCormack, Eugene; W. E. Hunt, Maupin; S. D. Dorman, Ontario; C. I. Hurd, Corvallis, (all of Oregon); Fred Herrin af

San Francisco; R. A. Ward, general manager, and Edgar Ludwick, assistant manager, Portland.

A WESTERN WOOL GROWER IN BOSTON

By Frank R. Arnold

The western wool grower seldom visits Boston. He is so dazzled by New York that he thinks nothing can eclipse it as a tourist town unless possibly some European city such as London or Paris and if he is a Babbitt or a so called "good American" he probably thinks New York must be superior even to these famous centers. And yet the wool warehouses of Boston should prove far more interesting to the western wool grower than Fifth Avenue shops or Broadway theatres, for Boston is second only to London as the world's biggest wool market and during the war even surpassed London.

Boston has two railway stations, a North Station that serves Northern New England and Canada and a South Station which is the gateway to New York and all points west. The western wool grower will thus probably arrive by the South Station and as he comes out of the station he will find himself confronted by wool offices and warehouses and a smell of suint as strong as that of a shearing corral. This is due to the fact that the station is on Summer Street in the heart of the wool sales district. On issuing from the station he will see the Hathaway Building, every window of which announces a wool salesman, and as he goes down the street to the east over toward South Boston there is nothing but wool warehouses and wool salesmen's offices. It is a distinguished section of Boston; every office window looks out onto Boston Harbor with its fish pier, the largest in the world; its dry docks, big enough to hold the Leviathan; its national aviation field; its antiquated island forts; and its national storage plant built by the government during the war at a cost of \$28,000,000.

New York has no monopoly of all the big things in the country as any wool salesman in Boston can point out to the wool grower. He will welcome you to his warehouse and tell you how glad he is

to see you and show you how his business begins where yours leaves off, and how much need of solidarity there is between the wool grower in the West and the wool salesman in Boston. Two of the largest wool warehouses are those of the Jeremiah Williams firm and of the house of Hallowell, Jones, and Donald, in both of which you will find courteous surprise that the western wool man rarely ranges so far off the earth as Boston, (one firm reports only a dozen visitors during the year), and on eager willingness to show you a wool warehouse in all its glory.

Most wool grower visitors want to be marched immediately to their own wool clip and compare it with that of other states, but there are other things to notice. As you wait in the office for a welcome you will do well to look over the leading sheep and wool publications of the world which are to be found on the office table. There are four of them. Largest and oldest of them all and published since 1891 is the "Pastoral Review of Australasia" giving wool data from Australia and New Zealand. Then there is our own beloved "National Wool Grower" shedding its beams even in the Far East as well as the "Sheep and Goat Raiser's Magazine" of San Antonio and the "American Sheep Breeder and Wool Grower."

Once you start on your warehouse circuit you will probably observe first the absolutely fire-proof construction of the building, only the window frames being of wood; then the huge store rooms, lighted on three sides and each large enough to contain one million pounds of wool. Your conductor through the building may be a wool buyer who knows the "Wooly West" intimately or a man who goes down to the Argentine every fall to buy wool, but whoever he may be, he will open your eyes to a world-wide wool production. One room will contain Ohio wool, another Nevada, another Texas, another Missouri, each state has its own room while still other rooms hold imports from South America, New Zealand, or Australia, and in one corner you may find a modest little clip of one thousand pounds from a small island off Cape Cod, in Massachusetts.

American grown wool comes to these warehouses on purchase or on consignment and if even in grade and length of staple it is sold in the original bags. This is usually the case with Arizona or Texas wool and some Nevada clips. The famous Jericho clip grades chiefly fine and so usually sells in bags without grading, but the great bulk of the territorial and fleece wools have to be prepared and graded, the blacks and tags taken out and then separated into the different commercial grades. The South American and Australian wools come already classed.

Each warehouse has its graders, two to five in number, who have been trained in woolen mills or in the warehouses and some of whom have had over thirty years experience in wool grading. It takes three years of apprenticeship to become a member of the Wool Sorters Association and some of the warehouse directors think it takes five or six years to make a good grader. You will see the bags on the floor, opened at the side, with the graders going over the fleeces and dropping them into large wicker baskets on wheels. Wool from each state is graded separately and the grading begins only when a large lot has accumulated, usually about seven hundred thousand pounds. Even the grading of these skilled men is not always satisfactory to the buyer who will look over a pile carefully and sometimes pull out a fleece or two that he does not think belongs in the pile, and in buying graded lines mill buyers often insist upon being allowed to reject a percentage of the fleeces they consider to be off the line of the grade. All the South American wool comes in bales at a freight rate of less than one-half a cent a pound while that from Utah or Oregon coming to Boston in bags by boat pays a freight rate of two cents a pound. The wool from Grand County, Utah, always comes in bales and so gets a cheaper freight.

A walk through these warehouses, a view of the graders at their work, and above all, talks with the men in charge prove conclusively to a western wool grower on a visit that the wool grower and the wool expert are two entirely different types of business men and though each can advise the other the place for the one is the western range and for the

other in the eastern warehouse and factory, and the twain are not likely to encroach on each other's preserves.

The general feeling in the Boston warehouses is that warehouse men prefer to do their own grading as they know better the varying demands of the market and do not wish to depend on the unstandardized, individual grading which would come from all the different producers in the West. One warehouse man expressed himself most emphatically when stating that the place for the wool specialist is in the East near the mills. The South American wools which arrive in Boston all classed are not graded on the ranch, but by experts before exporting. In Australia however wools are chiefly graded while shearing is being done. The large numbers shorn at each shed make practical the employment of a highly trained specialist to do the grading.

What the western producer can do is to improve his flocks by breeding and culling; he should also, when shearing, keep apart the tags and blacks as well as the bucks.

All this is the warehouse stage of the wool game. What the factory buyer thinks of western wool is another story that begins with the samples of various clips that arrive by mail in Boston from the West long before the whole consignment comes by freight. You will see buyers in the warehouses looking over the piles of graded wools. Shrewd, keen, independent men they are, far less urbane and approachable than the warehouse sellers. They have their own ideas of grading.

More and more as compared with former years a very large proportion of wools is being sold by salesmen in automobiles or over the telephone. Salesmen carry a small parcel of samples with them and the apprentice is given a few samples, with the asking price of the house, and sent out to hunt a buyer. The manufacturers are in the habit of buying five or ten sample bags of different lots that they are interested in and then taking them to the mills to sort and scour in order to make up their mind if the wool is well adapted to their purposes and what price they can afford to pay for it. In their minds all wools are at first rigidly classi-

fied by the states they come from, a classification as unescapable as sex and to the uninitiated as unaccountable as feminine psychology. Thus all wools are fleece wools that come from Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Bright wools are produced in Missouri and Illinois, while semi-bright come only from Iowa and Kansas. The territory wools are those from Oregon, Washington, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho. Once the wool is bought by the factory men you get into the third stage of the wool game and to learn their story you must visit the mills and follow the wool through until it emerges as cloth. This visit will bring you in turn to the fourth and last stage of the wool game, the wearer or consumer of woolen cloth. He would have an interesting tale to unfold if he had the eyes of an expert to watch the wear and tear on his woolen outer and underclothing.

STOCK FEEDERS MEET IN IDAHO

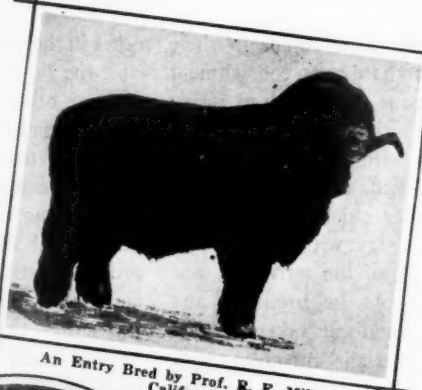
An opportunity to canvass feeder's prospects for operation next fall and winter was afforded by three district meetings held in Idaho in July. Under the joint call of the Extension Division of the University of Idaho and the Idaho Wool Growers Association the first session was held at Caldwell, Idaho, on July 21. This was followed by other sessions at Rupert, on July 23, and at Blackfoot on July 24.

Sixty per cent of the state's sheep and lamb feeders and thirty per cent of the cattle feeders were at the meetings in addition to many raisers. Reports were received on conditions and prospects in Oregon, Montana, Nevada and other states.

The supply and probable price of feeder stock for fall delivery was the chief topic of discussion. It was found last year that many smaller feeders were unable to purchase stock for feed lots from the range men because of the stuff having been placed under contract earlier in the season. Many of those who bought from second hands paid prices that severely handicapped their undertaking. It was felt to be desirable that lambs and cattle needed



A W. C. Pendleton, Utah, Stud Pen



An Entry Bred by Prof. R. F. Miller, California

*If you
better
Get the
Salt*



One of the Rambouillet Studs from King Bros Company, Wyoming



A California Single from the Merritt Flock



Utah Rams from Flock



A Single Stud Hampshire from Frank Brown, Oregon



One of the Briggs, California, Stud Rams



Montana Range Rams from Mt Haggis L. & L. S. Company



Two of the New Stud Rams

Some of the New Stud Rams
The Eleventh Annual
AUGUST 30, 31

You need
 better rams
 than at
 the lake



A University of California Rambouillet



Suffolks from Laidlaw & Brockie, Idaho



Utah Rams from the
Flock



A Hampshire Stud Ram Bred
by H. L. Finch, Idaho



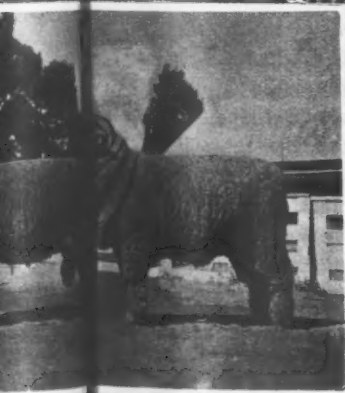
A Stud Ram from the Bullard Flock, California



One of the
S. W. McClure
Idaho Stud Rams



A University of Illinois Stud Ram



Two of the Best Stud Rams

of the to be Sold at

Ann National Ram Sale

o, 31 SEPTEMBER 1, 1926



Day Farms Company, Utah, Heavy Type Range Rams

for finishing locally should be sold direct from the raiser to the feeder.

Cattle feeders insisted on lower prices for their stock than prevailed last year, but raisers would not agree to any reduction. It was agreed that feeders would be notified as to time of gathering cattle on the range so that they might bid on them before shipment to outside markets.

There was also a difference of opinion upon the price of feeder lambs, range men expressing expectation of higher figures than have lately been mentioned and feeders appearing equally confident of change to lower prices. Some feeders made purchases at 10 cents. One agreement was made to take delivery, at home, of the feeder end of a large string on the basis of Chicago quotations (less freight and expenses) at the time the fat end was shipped. A few thin lambs were listed to sell at 10 cents and others up to 11 cents.

The information presented indicated a larger supply of thin lambs than last year, chiefly due to unfavorable feed conditions on the ranges of Idaho, Oregon and Nevada. The short beet crop seems likely to lessen the demand for stock to be finished at the sugar factories but hay is in good supply at fair prices.

SHRINKAGE OF CONVERSE COUNTY AND COKEVILLE (WYOMING) WOOLS

To the Wool Grower:

We are a subscriber to your magazine and would like to have the following question answered:

"Have you any statistical figures which would show the difference of shrink in the average fleeces of wool grown in Converse County, Wyoming, as compared with the wool grown in the desert regions of southwestern Wyoming, that is, around Cokeville, Kemmerer, and Granger Wyoming?"

Mountain Home Company

The above inquiry was recently received by the National Wool Grower and the following reply was made by Dean J. A. Hill of the College of Agriculture, University of Wyoming:

"I find in looking over my records that I have only scoured one or two samples

of wool from Converse County and, therefore, have very little statistical information on which to base a comparison of shrinkages. I will say, however, that based on my observations, Converse County wools, grade for grade, have about the same shrinkage as the wools designated as being from the desert regions of southern Wyoming. Wool from the region mentioned is not considered desert wool in Wyoming. The Cokeville wools especially are classed with so-called Triangle wools, which are much lighter in shrinkage than the real desert wools of Wyoming to the east and north. Converse County wools vary in shrinkage a good deal, depending upon the condition of the range and previous winter. In some places the sheep run on range that is quite sandy so that if it is dry they accumulate a good deal of sand. I should say on the whole that both Converse County and Cokeville wools are lighter than the general average in Wyoming."

WOOL SUBSTITUTE NOT POPULAR WITH MANUFACTURERS

The increased use of substitutes for the good old honest-to-goodness wool, silk, and cotton has filled many a newspaper column during the past months. As a price depressant for those commodities, the publicity has naturally been effective. However, a statement contained in the the July 15 issue of the Boston Transcript under the heading, "Wool Substitute Said to Have Met with a Setback", may act like a few drops of aromatic spirits of ammonia in counteracting such ill effect.

In this statement, "staple fiber", the artificial silk expected to be used with wool much as rayon has been with cotton and silk, is said to be employed with some success by a few Italian and English firms, but for the most part "mill men claim the product they have experimented with thus far is unsatisfactory as a wool substitute and can in no way replace cotton or rayon in the yarn or fabric. What they want is an improved staple which can be handled as readily as wool and which can be bought as cheap if not cheaper than shoddy." A recent display of the different varieties of "staple fiber" and the goods

made therefrom was held in Manchester, England. While favorable predictions as to its future use were made by some, the wool trade on the whole is reported as being skeptical. One of the chief obstacles to the use of this wool substitute, which is made mainly from viscose in Italy, Germany, France and England, is its present cost, 50 cents a pound in this country.

NATIONAL WOOL EXCHANGE SECURES LARGE CONSIGNMENT

M. L. Lane of Great Falls has consigned his wool clip, estimated at 175,000 pounds, to the National Wool Exchange. This is one of the largest clips in this state.

Mr. Lane refused 38 cents a pound for his wool, and consigned it to the Wool Exchange in the belief that he will receive more than 40 cents. He has 27,000 sheep 17,000 mature sheep and 10,000 lambs—located between here and Valier, in the Flathead and Bitter Root country.

In commenting on his consignment to the National Wool Exchange, Mr. Lane said that in his opinion the wool growers of Montana should co-operate with the marketing agency so that the product of this state can have the most favorable opportunity in realizing the best prices. He said that the individual selling of clips could not be expected to anticipate market conditions and that this method does not serve the best interests of the growers.

The National Wool Exchange is composed entirely of growers in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Nevada and the farm flock states of the Mississippi valley, according to its president, Mr. Staff. The company has its headquarters in Boston, but western headquarters are maintained in Helena.

"We will be the largest handlers of choice Montana and Wyoming wool this year," Mr. Staff asserted. "The Exchange is obtaining many of the largest clips. The fact that we have built up a reputation which brings us the confidence and patronage of the largest mills in the United States is evidence of the success of the National Wool Exchange."

Leon Shaw.

Line Breeding and Open Faces From an Australian View Point

By R. B. Millin

There are many logical reasons why the Australian methods of preparing and selling wools are superior to those used in the United States, but there is no logical reason why Australians should be so far ahead of Americans in the art and science of breeding pure bred sheep. But they are.

They laugh at two great fallacies which have an extreme hold on practically all American sheepmen regardless of whether they breed lambs for slaughter or rams for sale. They are the deep-rooted objection to inbreeding or line breeding of any kind and the demand for sheep "wooled to the nose."

If all American wool growers could visit the flock of Walter S. Murray, "Cappeedee", Hallet, South Australia, see his sheep, and enjoy his kindly hospitality long enough to learn the history of the Murray flock and look over the collection of photographs dating back as far as fifty years, they would find considerable to think about and would go back to the United States with some thoroughly revised ideas about line breeding and wooly noses. The fact that such a visit is impossible is the reason for this article.

The Murray flock was founded over eighty years ago by Mr. Murray's grandfather. Since that time it has always been in the hands of the Murray family, the sheep having been divided among the heirs of the founder and his sons. At the present time there are about 10,000 descendants of the original flock in the hands of various members of the Murray family. They are practically a breed within themselves but with neighboring flocks of the same type are referred to as the South Australian type.

The Murray Flock

The original flock was started with 200 head of ewes which probably came from the descendants of the McArthur flock and 200 head of ewes from Tasmania, a total of 400 head. Since that time no new blood has been introduced. That statement is worth noting for it means that all the rams used have been produced within the flock and that none

have been purchased to bring in fresh blood.

According to the theories of most American wool growers there should now be practically no wool on them, the sheep should be small and stunted, the lamb crop should be down to practically

has been used by skilled breeders with definite ideals in view.

If we define "inbreeding" as mating closely related animals such as sire and daughter, son and dam, or half brother and half sister, then Mr. Murray is not in favor of it.



Woodrow Wilson, a high priced stud ram sold in 1919 from the Murray flock. This sheep is interesting as a sample of the barefaced kind preferred by Australian breeders and also because he is a product of seventy years of line breeding.

nothing, and the lambs that are born should be very weak and develop into weak constituted sheep.

Instead the opposite is true. The sheep are big and rugged, being among the largest and strongest constituted sheep in Australia, carry more wool than they ever did, and produce large crops of lambs that quickly grow into big strong sheep.

Mr. Walter S. Murray has been running the flock at "Cappeedee" for twenty-three years and says that the sheep are larger, shear more wool, have stronger constitutions and drop as many and stronger lambs now than when he first moved there.

Inbreeding Versus Line Breeding

It must not be assumed that the results obtained in the Murray flock are due simply to inbreeding or line breeding. It has been a means to an end that could have been reached in no other way but it

What he and practically all Australian breeders who have large flocks favor is "line breeding"; that is the mating of ewes and rams that are related but not so closely as in the case of inbreeding.

Most Australian breeders feel that "inbreeding" as defined above is seldom desired but that progress is most rapidly and surely made through the use of "line breeding" and that the bringing in of fresh "blood" for the sake of blood alone is a mistake. They feel that it should be done only when some very outstanding animal of the same line of breeding can be obtained. Given the choice between a home-bred ram and a ram bred in another flock, both of equal merit, they will usually prefer the former.

The reason for the failure of American breeders of pure bred sheep to use more line breeding is unquestionably due to the fact that most of them do not appreciate its value and to the fact that practically all of the range sheepmen have an unholy horror of inbreeding and fail to distin-

guish between true inbreeding and line breeding. If it is rumored about that "so and so" is using some of his own rams, then he is "inbreeding" and from then on the breeder who may be doing some very constructive work is going to find it harder to sell his rams because they are "inbred" and "the lambs will be weak", etc.

Until this "old grannie" notion is driven out of the range men's minds the pure bred feeder is handicapped because after all he is but a manufacturer trying to produce what the public wants and if the public wants and insists on having rams from unrelated parents it is up to the breeders to provide them even if they know that they could provide better ones from line bred stock.

One thing seldom recognized by range men and possibly by many pure bred breeders is the greater prepotency (the ability of a ram to stamp his characteristics on his offspring) of line-bred stock. When the blood of certain animals has been concentrated in a ram he is likely to sire animals like himself and the animals whose blood has been concentrated in him. If the blood has not been concentrated, the tendency is not so great.

What ram buyers hope to get when they buy rams is prepotent individuals that will stamp their own characteristics on their progeny. The best way of getting such animals is to buy line bred ones. If some one can get the range men to understand that fact, then the way is clear for even more constructive breeding than has been done in the past.

Both inbreeding and line breeding are two-edged swords that will cut both ways and there is no excuse for the breeder who line breeds from inferior animals simply to keep on line breeding. As previously stated, practically all the large breeders use line breeding almost exclusively and it is probable that every one of them would unhesitatingly condemn any concentration of the blood of not only inferior animals, but of any except outstanding sires. Concentrating blood intensifies all characteristics and there is no need to intensify anything but the most desirable characteristics. When the Australian breeders do get an exceptional individual they do not hesitate to concentrate his

blood within reasonable limits and it is from this sort of breeding that their continued improvement comes.

Australian Breeders' Records and Mating Systems

Most of the Australian breeders carry on this line breeding by keeping records on from 500 to 1500 of their top stud ewes. Among these best stud ewes there are several families, usually ranging from three to five. Matings are made according to families; the visible characteristics of the ewes and the rams, and any knowledge of their past breeding record that may be available determining what ram of a certain family the ewes will be mated with.

For the purpose of illustration, let us suppose that one breeder is so fortunate as to own three excellent rams by each of the following outstanding rams: Old Ted, Monarch, and Duke. At the start of the flock certain ewes would be picked to be bred to each ram according to the best judgment of the breeder. When the lambs are born the ewe lambs are marked or recorded as belonging to one of the three families. They will belong to the family of their sire. When mature and ready for mating the ewes sired by the Ted rams would be mated with whichever one of the Monarch rams seemed most liable to correct their faults and produce the best lambs. The ewes by the Monarch rams would be mated with the Duke rams; and the ewes by the Duke rams with the Ted rams in the same way. This process of mating the daughters of one family with the most suitable rams in another family would be kept up indefinitely until a family "runs out" because it has of late produced no sires worthy to be kept and used or until the outstanding individual that comes once in a long time makes his appearance and a new family is founded. Sires for use in the flock are selected as needed and are considered as belonging to the family of their sire. Thus there is no inbreeding in the true sense of the term but there is line breeding and consequent concentration of blood in a constructive way which results in definite progress and a uniform type of prepotent rams for sale.

Open Faces

So much for line breeding. Now for barefaced sheep. And it might be well before going further to define a bare-faced sheep as one that grows wool to a short distance below the eyes but not down to the nose. In other words a bare-faced sheep is not bareheaded but is heavily wooled down to that point beyond which the growth of wool would interfere with his eyesight.

Most American breeders believe that sheep that are wooled to the nose are heavy shearers and that any tendency toward a bare face is an indication of light shearing qualities. While a bare-faced sheep may be a light shearer the fact that he is bare-faced is not necessarily an indication of his light shearing qualities, as any one who has ever seen bare-faced Australian Merino rams packing 25 to 30 pounds of relatively light-shrinking wool can tell you. There is no use in saying that you can't breed a heavy shearing Merino ram with a bare face for it has been done.

The Australian Merinos are bare-faced. The Rambouillets as bred in America are wooled down as far as the breeders can get them, much to their detriment on the range, particularly in the snowy sections. There is no valid argument in America against the open face except that bare-faced sheep are light shearers. And yet Australian breeders produce bare-faced sheep that will hold their own in the production of greasy wool with the flocks in the United States and beat them in the production of scoured wool. So that argument fails and leaves the believer in wooly noses defending his belief with the statement that the Rambouillets have always been wooly faced and the Australian Merinos barefaced and that it is impossible to breed barefaced Rambouillets without sacrificing their shearing qualities. Assuming that what has been done with one breed of Merinos can be done with another that argument, so far as the author is concerned, has been settled once and forever, thanks to Mr. Murray's collection of photographs.

On the wall of Mr. Murray's office hang two pictures showing Murray rams

of 55 years ago. They are woolled to the toes as the Murray sheep still are and show quite a little wool on the face though it does not extend to the tip of the nose. Evidently there was a tendency to wooly faces in the Murray sheep in the early 70's. Then came what Mr. Murray terms "a show ring craze" for sheep that were "wooled to the nose." Has a familiar sound doesn't it? The Murrays produced them. Mr. John Murray of Rhine Park, South Australia, the father of Walter S. Murray of Cappeedee, bred the first prize and champion four-tooth ewe at the Adelaide show in September, 1896. The name of this ewe was Queen and her fleece took first prize in 1896 and 1897. Evidently she was an outstanding ewe. Her picture shows here to be "wooled to the nose."

She was not one wooly-faced ewe out of a thousand as the whole flock had wooly faces at that time. A group picture of five rams taken in the early 90's, shows Lord Inverurie, a three times winner in the show ring with two first prize fleeces to his credit; Chieftain, first at Adelaide in 1893, second in '94 and first in '95 with two first prize fleeces to his credit; and three other rams, all showing moderately wooly faces. That they were successful in breeding the wool on is shown by the accompanying picture taken about 1897 of a group of four ewes bred at Rhine Park.

Glance at the picture of the ram Woodrow Wilson, taken in 1919. The picture shows him to have been a grand, good individual with wool enough on the legs and body for any one and yet he is a barefaced ram. Fifteen years of breeding has certainly made a great difference in the covering of the faces in the Murray flock. Incidentally, Woodrow Wilson shows no lack of scale, wool constitution, or masculinity from over seventy years of line breeding.

Due to the show yard craze the Murrays bred wool onto the faces of their sheep in the 90's but shortly after 1900 saw that instead of being a benefit it was a detriment. They then began to breed it off and for a short time their stock suffered defeats in the show ring because of the lack of covering but soon the style changed and the show ring demanded barefaces.



A group of ewes from the Murray flock, photographed in 1897. They show the extent of face covering desired at that time and which prevailed in Australian Stud Flocks.

Mr. Murray's photographs show beyond all question that wool can be bred on or off the face by the process of selection in accordance with the breeder's wishes. Most American breeders will agree to this but do not believe that the wool can be bred off the face without a loss in weight of fleece. Mr. Murray takes the opposite view as his sheep now shear more than they did twenty years and more ago when they were "wooled to the nose."

The stud rams in Mr. Murray's flock now cut from twenty-five to thirty pounds per head of rather light shrinking wool. The ram Lord Inverurie, previously mentioned, cut fleeces weighing twenty and a half and twenty pounds. Chieftain cut prize fleeces of twenty-one pounds ten ounces and twenty-one pounds. These fleeces were cut in the early 90's from wooly faced sheep. Woodrow Wilson cut twenty-five pounds of light shrinking wool. He is six generations removed from 'Wool Prince,' an open faced ram that was champion at Adelaide in September, 1885, and whose fleece weighed twenty and one-fourth pounds. Wool Prince was by Prince Imperial who was twice champion and sheared eighteen and three-fourths pounds. He was by Duke of Edinburgh who was also twice a champion and cut seventeen and one-fourth pounds.

Thus Mr. Murray's figures substantiate his statement that there has been a constant improvement in the shearing qualities of the flock and that nothing has been lost by changing from a wooly faced to a barefaced sheep. He does state however that "it is easier to put on than to take off" and that the wool can not be

bred off the face and the fleece weights maintained by the indiscriminate use of barefaced rams." The latter statement is obvious and offers no reason why Rambouillets can not be bred with bare faces.

There are few range men who would not prefer a barefaced sheep to a wooly faced one, but at the present time they know that the breeders are not trying to produce them and where they see barefaced rams for sale they are seldom particularly keen on buying them because they fear they may not be as heavy shearers as the others. If they knew that the breeders were trying to breed barefaced rams without sacrificing the quality or quantity of their wool, they would probably be very glad to get them.

In South Australia in the 90's wooly faced sheep were the result of a show yard craze rather than the demands of the men who purchased rams for use on range ewes. This condition still exists in the United States. Obviously if a change for the better is to be made it should start in the show ring either by the judges giving preference to barefaced sheep or at least refusing to discredit them on this account.

It is also apparent that the judges should be in accord on this point in order to avoid animals being placed up at one show because of bare faces and being rejected at another for the same reason. This could best be done by the Rambouillet Association giving instructions to the judges on this point. Who will make the motion that will encourage the production of a type of Rambouillet covering that will be better suited to American conditions?

A LETTER FROM A SHEPHERD TO HIS PAL

Morocco, Africa,

July, 1926.

Brush your unkempt locks down smooth while I tell you about a lion hunt. It's a wild combination of event and circumstance as still makes my hair stand erect when I pause to contemplate.

We left the village at daybreak with a string of twenty picked men. I wanted to take my carbine, but Isaac Sarah's dad, said no, it wasn't necessary. Isaac was proud of his men, and I didn't want to hurt his feelings by casting a doubt on their way with lions. Just the same, not having my gat along made me feel like I was going to a dance in my overalls. Sarah said hurry back—and I come darned near pleading a headache. I ain't lost any lions nohow.

Ern, if you could a seen us that morn'ing, our hosses dancing out acrost veltd and donga—that's African for mesa and arroyo—you'd a got a thrill as would make you sore because you put in all your days for sixty dollars a month. Gawd, Ern, they was a fierce looking bunch! Every man packed a spear with a yard long blade which flashed in the morning sun like they was thirsty for blood.

I was on a chunky little Berber hoss, a iron gray, with a good set of legs under him and plenty of nip. Isaac had a long-legged sorrel as had strayed away from the French lines. When that hoss wandered off, some French officer was put afoot. The rest was on Berbers, Arabians, and Morocco mixtures.

Twenty miles out we came on the spot where a lion had killed a eland. A eland is a cross between a camel and a elk, and the lions is fond of them. Here we drawed rein and gathered around for a pow-wow. There was a brushy donga with a water hole close by, and the boys figured that after their feed the lions would mosey down there for a drink and to curl up in the shade for the day.

They had the right dope. In fact there was one lion as hadn't got curled yet. While we sat there on our hosses, discussing ways and means to get 'em to come out in the open a big fellow, about half the size of a dray hoss, rose out of the

grass and bounded away towards the shelter of that donga. Ten of the boys shot their ponies out in the same direction and turned him back towards us. It wasn't good judgment I thought, to do that, but I didn't have time to reflect.

Ordinarily, a lion will run a mile or two most any place to avoid a row, and wouldn't turn on you till he was kinda warm and out of wind. But you can't always tell. There ain't nothing sure about a lion. This one let a roar out of him and came like a yellow bat out of hell, straight at us.

One thing I hadn't noticed, and that was that the boys that stayed had slipped from their ponies and had formed a half



A John K. Madsen yearling.
A grandson of Old 467, recently sold to Wm. Briggs
of Dixon, Calif., for \$750.00.

circle in front of us. There they stood, with spears poised, a brown crescent squirmy with the makings of sudden death.

Gawd Ern, it was over so quick you didn't have time to say your prayers! Fellow by the name of Mohammed stood square up to the lion's charge. He stood like a statue, his spear held back over his shoulder, his eye on the oncoming beast. I saw the lion leap from the ground amid a crisscross of silver lightning as six spears drove through his tawny body in midair. Mohammed's arm shot forward and the long blade of his spear sank out of sight in the lion's breast. At the same time he stepped aside and the lion came to earth where Mohammed had stood. He wasted one fatal moment clawing and biting at Mohammed's spear, and two others drove through the heart of him and laid him low. Brown shapes, with spears held

aloft, dashed into the ring now, but there was no need of further battle. Leo tried to rise, but he was plumb out of gear and couldn't get started. Then he braced hisself, his head began to sway right and left, and in a little while he sank quivering to the ground. The big muscles went limp, he coughed up a bucket of blood, relaxed, and the death glaze stole into his eyes.

"You see, we don't need any gun." I heard Isaac say. I was just beginning to breath again.

"That's alright," says I, trying to think of something impersonal that way. But Isaac was premature. At that instant a rifle cracked acrost the veltd and Mohammed toppled over, clutching at his breast.

The men grabbed their spears and jumped to their hosses. Then we saw what had happened. While we'd been engrossed with the lion a bunch of bandit Arabs had almost surrounded us. Less than three hundred yards away their hosses and camels stood on a ridge. There was at least fifty rifles—and we had not a gun in the bunch.

Again the crack of a gat, and others chipped in. One of the boys pitched out of his saddle and piled up in a heap.

Isaac kept his head. He sized our case up in a flash.

"Fall back!" he called to his men. "And ride!"

With that he put the spurs to the big sorrel and nodded for me to follow. Then I made my mistake. Mohammed was trying to rise to his feet, and I reined up beside him and reached down to lift him on. I never got back into the saddle. Mohammed was heavy, and that little gray slid out from under me like a greased eel and struck out for home. The next instant a big Arab stood over me and covered me with his Mauser.

I got a cramp in my pen hand, Ern, so I guess I'll chop off.

Your friend and pal,

Richard A. Wormwood.

The catalogs for the Eleventh National Ram Sale are now ready and will be sent to any one making application to the National Wool Growers Association, 303 McCornick Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah.

RANGE AND MARKET TRADE IN LAMBS

GOOD PRICES FOR CROSSBRED EWE LAMBS

Twelve cents per pound was paid late in July for mixed ewe and wether lambs owned at Heber City, Utah. A total of 8000 head was contracted at eleven and a half and twelve cents for October delivery. The lambs are expected to weigh from 75 to 80 pounds and the principal part of them will be fat enough for slaughter.

The purchaser expects to move the ewe lambs obtained under his contracts to Idaho to be carried over for stock ewes. They are sired by Cotswold, Panama, and Romney rams and from a good class of fine woolled ewes. The buyer is one of Idaho's most prominent and successful lamb raisers and shippers and recognizes the value of the crossbred type of range ewe for breeding to Hampshire rams to produce market lambs.

IDAHO ASSOCIATION SECURES BETTER SERVICE AT FEED YARDS

Following early shipments of Idaho lambs complaints were made regarding feed and water service at the Laramie, Wyoming, feed yards and at some other points. The Secretary and officers of the Idaho association visited the various yards to explain to the superintendents what changes were needed. The report made to the association officers and as also presented before the Central Western Shippers Advisory Board was reprinted in the July issue of the Wool Grower.

The association has announced that the superintendent of the Laramie Yards has given assurance of improvement in the facilities and service for handling lambs unloaded for rest, feed, and water. Better and lower priced hay is to be furnished and additional water troughs put in. Feed racks will be cleaned out more frequently and when desired by the shipper hay will be weighed and put in racks after the arrival of the shipment.

COAST PACKERS ACTIVE IN INTERMOUNTAIN STATES

The increasing consumption of lamb in Pacific coast cities is directly shown through the activity of packers buying in Idaho, Utah and Montana.

Wilson & Company, of Los Angeles, are now regularly represented in those states by Mr. E. A. Deneke with headquarters at the Newhouse Hotel, Salt Lake City. Mr. Deneke recently made purchases for his firm at Heber City, Utah. He reports the Utah lambs to be in good condition and that the coast trade promises to be active during the coming fall and winter months.

FEEDER LAMB SALES

This is August and the feeding lamb market is practically made, although serious damage to the corn crop may change the situation. Colorado, which has been on sick leave in the contracting sphere, is coming to life. Sam Webster of Fort Collins, is credited with buying 50,000

head at 11 @ 11¼ cents at Buffalo, Wyoming. These, of course, carry a fat end.

Around Livingston, Martinsdale, Harlowtown and White Sulphur Springs, Montana, 80,000 lambs have been contracted at 10½ cents, a few as high as 11¼ cents, meaning some fat lambs. Between 350,000 and 400,000 lambs are already under contract in Montana at prices about 1½ cents per pound less than last year. This is about 50 per cent of the output; probably enough to determine the value of the whole package. In Wyoming about 40 per cent of the crop has been sold. Idaho is disposed to hold its light lambs for local feeding. Few feeders want the big ones.

On the Crow Reservation in Montana and around Lovell, Cody and Big Timber, about 150,000 head have sold at 10½ @ 11¼ cents. In Beaverhead County, Montana, around Dillon and Deer Lodge, contracting has been heavy. Speculators around Livingston, Montana, have taken 125,000 for delivery the first half of September at 10½ cents. Indiana feeders are reported to have acquired 20,000 head in Montana at 10½ @ 11 cents.

Indiana took 8,000 of the 15,000 feeding lambs bought at Chicago the last week of July.

The Central Markets in July

CHICAGO

A period of comparative placidity in July followed the June tumult in the lamb market. Fluctuations have been within a narrower range and the trade has shown a reasonable degree of stability.

That peculiarly disturbing influence, outside competition, has been little in evidence. Packers would have no difficulty in running an even-keel market if it could be surrounded by a high-board fence to the exclusion of the order buyer and eastern killer whose appearance is always marked by tumult when it happens that there are not enough lambs for everybody and a few to spare. Packers can take over

a day's run of lambs so as to affect prices little even if it happens to be short, but let an order buyer with a commission to get a few loads of lambs "at the market" butt into the arena and trouble promptly ensues. When a shipper wants a load of lambs, price is a secondary consideration and he is always ready to pay a stiff premium for the fancy kind. When he is out of the game that premium is impossible. Packer buyers usually have a pegged price which prevents them from paying the premium a load of outstanding lambs is entitled to when an outsider covets them. With shippers out, there is but one buyer for all practical purposes; one

shipper buyer in the game means active competition and higher premium on the good loads.

During most of July outside competition did not exist in the lamb market, which accounts for its placidity and narrow fluctuations. A comprehensive digest of the market reads this way:

Week ending July 3: Top western lambs, \$15.60 and bulk at \$15 @ 15.50; top native lambs, \$15.15, and bulk at \$14.50 @ 15; culls, \$11 @ 11.50; yearlings, top \$13.75, bulk \$12 @ 13; fat ewes, top \$7, bulk \$5 @ 6.50.

Week ending July 10: Top western lambs, \$15.10 and bulk \$14.50 @ 15; top natives, \$14.85, and bulk \$14 @ 14.75; culls \$11 @ 11.50; yearlings, top \$12, bulk \$11.50 @ 12; fat ewes, top \$7, bulk \$5 @ 6.50; feeding lambs, \$13.75 @ 14.25.

Week ending July 17: Top western lambs, \$14.40, and bulk \$14 @ 14.25; native, top \$14.25, and bulk \$13.50 @ 13.75; culls, \$10 @ 11; feeding lambs, \$13.50 @ 14; yearlings, top \$12, bulk \$11.50 @ 12; fat ewes, top \$7, bulk \$5 @ 6.50; breeding ewes, \$7 @ 9, top on yearling ewes, \$13.

Week ending July 24: Top western lambs, \$15.15, and bulk \$14.40 @ 15; native, top \$14.25, and bulk \$13.75 @ 14.25; culls, \$11 @ 11.50; feeders, \$13.30 @ 14.00; yearlings, top \$12, bulk \$11.50 @ 12; fat ewes, top \$7, bulk \$5 @ 7.

That is a tabloid market which is all the average man cares to know. Events of the last week of July are more recent and consequently of more import. During the last week of July a few eastern orders materialized injecting a little "pep" into the trade, which was fortunate as supply showed a disposition to expand. The top on western lambs of that week was \$15.15; but the same stock sold at the week end on a gradual decline at \$14.50. Bulk of the western lambs went to killers for the entire week at \$14 @ \$14.85; natives sold largely at \$13.25 @ 14, with a \$14.75 top. Heavy buck lambs, weighing around 100 pounds were on a \$12 basis, native culls dropping to \$10 @ 10.50. Fat ewes sold up to \$7.50, bulk of a small supply going to killers at \$5 @ 7.25. Yearlings bulked at \$11 @ 12, and a few fat western wethers went to killers at \$8.75 @ 9, these

being reminiscent of the period when the market was full of them and they went to Europe by the shipload.

The buck lamb is again in evidence, heralding another penalization agitation. Buck natives have been selling around \$12, but are likely to get a swatting at any moment. Even slight expansion of native lamb production had developed a surplus of cull lambs, breaking prices late in July to a \$10 basis, some culls selling below that figure. Jersey City has had a raft of inferior lambs this season. This trash does not compare with good western product but it goes into distributive channels to the distinct disadvantage of good lambs, not only swelling supply but creating prejudice in the consumer's mind, as retailers have a confirmed habit of misrepresenting its quality. Common lamb is a favorite hotel and restaurant "buy", so that its production is a handicap to the industry.

At the inception of August trade prospects were somewhat brighter than thirty days previously. An occasional eastern order came to Chicago, southern lambs were about all in and there was a good prospect of competition which is always a sustaining influence although it throws the market off the stride it would otherwise have if packers were in control. Shipper demand promotes instability by its irregularity. Of course supply is the most potent influence. If the trade had advance information of eastern killers' requirements this somewhat demoralizing influence could, in a measure, be nullified.

Dressed trade has been erratic. It is one of the bad spots of the industry for which killers are partly to blame. Too many middlemen, or jobbers, have inserted a finger in the pie, each levying a toll whenever possible. It may be true that these jobbers play a hazardous game and frequently lose money, but this does not alter the fact that they are a disturbing influence. Early in the week they frequently put up prices one to two cents per pound wholesale, checking demand; later, when a glut develops they get panicky, throw their holdings overboard and demoralize not only the dressed market, but live lamb trade as the kick back is prompt.

effective and disorganizing. In seeking causes for lamb market eccentricity we cannot overlook what happens from week to week in the dressed market. Another influence is the frenzied, almost foolish manner, in which killers compete among themselves in selling the dressed product.

Around August the first choice dressed lambs, 30 to 42 pounds, were quoted at \$29 @ 31 in Chicago; good at \$27 @ 29. Heavier carcasses were not available except in limited numbers. "All weights" were quoted at \$22 @ 27 for medium and \$18 @ 22 for common. Mutton carcasses (ewes) sold at \$9 @ 13, for common to good. At New York, choice 30 to 42 pound lambs were quoted at \$28 @ 30; good \$26 @ 28. "All weights" were \$25 @ 27 for good and \$20 @ 25 for common.

July supply was somewhat in excess of the same period last year when 911,000 sheep and lambs reported at 10 principal markets against 957,000 this year. Expansion developed during the last two weeks when ten markets received 413,000 against 346,000 last year.

What the market was doing a year ago may not be uninteresting at this juncture. The first week of August lambs sold up to \$15.40 on killer account; \$15 to feeders, fat ewes reaching \$8.50. The second week the top to killers was \$15.50. Fat yearlings made \$13 and fat ewes \$8. The third week lambs broke 50 cents to \$1.00, with a \$15.25 top to killers, feeders paying \$15.35 @ 15.50 for light and handyweight lambs. Sheep held steady. Around September 1, western lambs advanced 50 cents, fat westerns reaching \$15.65; natives \$15.50, culls selling at \$11.50 @ 12, and buck natives at \$12.50 @ 13. Feeders paid \$15.75 for light lambs and anywhere from \$14 to \$15.65 for the bulk of their buy. Fat ewes sold largely at \$6.50 @ 7.50 with an \$8.25 top.

J. E. Poole.

ST. JOSEPH

Receipts for July, were 90,500 compared with 55,449 the same month a year ago. Of the month's total, 47,816 were from Idaho and Oregon. The month opened with best western lambs at \$14.85; the top advanced to \$15.25 the second



One of the J. K. Madsen Range Pens entered in the Ram Sale



Sample of the Range Pen from Clark & Company, Idaho

week. This was followed by a sharp break, the market continued to work lower, and closed with best at \$14.00. Quality was good and practically all offerings sold at top prices. Feeders were selling mostly at \$13.00 on the close, or about steady with a month ago. Native lambs closed \$1.25 lower, with best at \$13.25 on closing days. Aged sheep closed around 50 cents higher for the month. Best ewes, both native and western, were selling at \$7.00 on the close; wethers \$8.50 @ \$9.00; and yearlings \$10.50 @ \$11.00. Breeding ewes were in fair demand at all times. Natives sold largely \$7.50 @ \$8.00; few westerns were offered.

H. H. Madden

OMAHA

Fat lamb prices were again rather erratic during July and, with increasing supplies, together with further declines in the dressed lamb markets of the East, the general tendency was toward lower levels, although no drastic reductions such as those of June were experienced. The high mark for the month was established during the first week, when the top on range lambs reached \$15.25. From this point a sharp reduction set in until the latter part, when a slight reaction sent the top level to \$14.00, or 75 cents under that at the close of June.

Arrivals for the month aggregate 194,645 head, which is about 18,000 more than were received during June, and 5,000 over the total for July, 1925. Bulk of supplies consisted of Idaho range lambs, with a fair proportion of Oregons. A few Wyo-

ming and Utah lambs also put in their appearance during the last few days of the month, selling about on a par with the Idaho stock.

The prevailing opinion among local commission men seems to be that, barring any unexpected and off-season increase in supplies, fat lamb prices will at least hold their own during August and possibly work higher. Earlier reports that lambs coming from the western ranges would include a larger percentage of feeders have been borne out during the last week or two, resulting in a considerable reduction in the number of lambs suited for slaughter. Such a condition, if continued, would have a buoyant influence on prices for lambs of this class and serve to offset any tendency to work toward lower levels.

The break in fat lamb prices during the last month has been reflected in those for feeders and closing quotations are as much as 75 cents under those at the end of the previous four-week period. The outlook for prices in this class is rather problematical, depending to a large extent upon the outcome of crops within the feeding area.

Around 50 per cent of supplies lately have consisted of feeders and, coincident with this increase, outgoing shipments of lambs to the country jumped to 54,365 head this month, against only 29,216 during June and 41,314 head in July of last year. Choice lightweight lambs have met with the greatest favor from buyers, and salesmen have been finding it hard to move the heavier and fleshier lambs. Choice lightweight lambs were selling upwards to \$13.35 at the close of the month, whereas a year ago they were selling in a spread of \$14.00 @ 14.50.

A continued large supply of lambs on the feeder order, however, would probably result in a situation in this class just the reverse of last year. At that time, when lambs were coming from the ranges fat and heavy, it was the lightweight feeders that commanded a premium. With conditions the opposite this season it would be the lambs carrying the most flesh that would bring the highest prices.

Any relief from the drouth that has prevailed in this section of the country would likely result in a broader demand for feeders. This, and the fact that these lambs are selling lower than they have at this time for several years, as well as the existence of a wider spread in prices for fats and feeders than has prevailed at this time for several seasons, would act as a stimulant on prices. On the other hand, increasing supplies of such lambs might check any advance and force prices lower. A canvass of Omaha commission houses reveals that there are plenty of orders on hand but, in most cases, prices called for are lower than those prevalent at this time. A few recent orders, however, have been without a price limit, indicating a broadening in demand. It appears, though, that future prices for both fat and feeder lambs will depend to a large extent on the weather man.

Prices in the aged sheep division worked the opposite to those governing the lamb trade during July and closing sales were at levels 50 to 75 cents higher than those of a month ago. Improved conditions in the eastern dressed mutton trade, along with relatively small supplies and a noticeable widening in demand, are largely responsible for this. The general qual-

ity of the western ewes on offer improved somewhat during the latter part of the month and the best of these found ready outlet to killers at advancing prices until an extreme top of \$7.00 was established on the close, against \$6.25 a month ago.

K. H. Kittoe

KANSAS CITY

Though July did not record the highest prices reached in June, it did not uncover as low a spot as last month and because these extremes were lacking price fluctuations were unusually narrow for the seventh month of the year. July started with choice western lambs bringing \$15, worked up to \$15.50 by the end of the first week, turned downward and at the middle of the month was slightly under the 14 cent level. In the last two weeks fluctuations were within a 50-cent range and on the close, with western lambs selling up to \$14.25, the net loss for the month was 75 cents.

This decline was smaller than had been expected and because of the broad demand that prevailed during the month, general sentiment is more bullish than at the close of June. Packers have shown a different attitude and instead of curtailing their orders they have bought to the limit of the supplies available. Dry weather in a large portion of the Northwest, which will probably cut down the per cent of the fat lambs, and the cleaning up of the available supply of native lambs have been factors in creating a more favorable trend in the general trade. A month ago killers were sure that plenty of fat lambs would be available in August and September, but with Pacific coast buyers operating as far east as the Colorado line central killers do not anticipate more than enough fat lambs to supply urgent requirements. At \$13.50 to \$14.50 for straight range lambs, flockmasters will be making a fairly good profit and on the basis of present conditions that price range is likely to be maintained. Some are of the opinion that \$15 or better will be paid in the next thirty days, and that it is not improbable, especially if range lambs carry as large per cent feeders as many think they will. It is generally

conceded that there are more lambs available than last year, but this has been a twin year and a dry year in many sections and the two combined do not make for a large per cent of the lambs getting fat.

Fat sheep prices held within a narrow range, yearlings and wethers closing in about the same position as June but fat ewes making a gain of 50 cents. Thirty days ago there was a heavy run of old native ewes that depressed the prices but since then receipts have diminished and with western ewes offered quality has improved. On the close Colorado ewes sold at \$7 to 7.25, Texas wethers brought \$8 to \$8.65 and Texas yearlings \$10 to \$10.50. All these were straight grass fat and short wool that sold to killers with little or no sort. Texas will continue to market wethers and old ewes but the runs will not be heavy as the sheep belt of that state has excellent range conditions and her flocks are still being built up. In case drought conditions develop in the next sixty days the marketward movement would be heavy.

That portion of the corn belt served by the Kansas City market is waiting for the movement of western lambs to start before it begins buying feeding lambs. Practically no feeders in this territory have contracted thin lambs for winter feeding and so few have been offered this past month that values have not been fairly tested. Feeders are not saying what prices they expect to pay except that they expect to buy on the open market.

Thus far feed conditions are favorable. In the past few days some general rains fell in this section and improved corn prospects from central Kansas eastward. Southern Kansas corn is in excellent condition, Kansas also has a big wheat crop and this means that screening and mill products will be fairly plentiful for feeding. Many farmers are counting on an unusually heavy growth on fall pastures and corn fields and they know that thin sheep and lambs can utilize this class of roughage to best advantage.

July receipts totaled 114,150 or about 12,000 less than in the same period last year. Arrivals for the seven months were 914,500 compared with 809,441 in the same period 1925. C. M. Pipkin

DENVER

Sheep receipts at Denver in July were 46,583 head compared to 85,483 in July, 1925. Good grass on the high ranges resulted in the holding back of shipments this year, which is partially responsible for the short supply.

Practically no contracting of feeder lambs has as yet been done by feeders in this territory. Some few deals have been reported in the Northwest at prices ranging from \$10 to \$11, and most operators are of the opinion that this is going to be about the prevailing price at which contracting will be done, if it is done. Opinion seems to be quite general, however, that most of the feeder lambs put in feed lots this fall are going to be purchased on the various markets rather than by contracting. Northern Colorado feeders have set their pegs at \$8.50 to \$9 for feeding lambs, but as yet have been unable to get any at this figure. Banks in northern Colorado are reported to be refusing to loan money for the purchase of feeder lambs bought at higher than these prices, and as yet it is anybody's guess as to just what the outcome is going to be.

Lambs were selling at Denver early in July at \$14. By the middle of the month the tops had dropped to \$13.50 but at the close best fat lambs were selling at \$13.75. Ewes that sold at \$5.50 to \$6 early in July were selling a month later at \$5.50 to \$6.25.

W. N. Fulton.

TWO VIEWS ON ORGANIZATION OF LAMB FEEDERS

Colorado lamb feeders have organized. They needed it. Mr. E. J. Maynard, of the Colorado Agricultural College, writing inspiringly of the effort in a recent issue, of the Breeder's Gazette said:

"This is an age of organization. The lamb feeder buys his lambs from the growers who are organized. He buys his feed and equipment from organizations, and his fat lambs are sold by a organization, his commission firm, to one of the biggest organizations in the country, the packers. Truly, he has a good example of the benefits desired through organization on all sides."

Mr. Maynard's rhetoric is good; how about his facts? I know of no growers' organizations that sell lambs unless it be some of the corporate concerns, and there is no practical difference between a corporation and an individual in such transactions. Certainly, none of the western state sheep organizations are in commerce, nor is the National Wool Growers Association.

The feeder is in the same position as the grower in buying equipment and supplies from firms and corporations. No organization sells his lambs at the market. His selling agency may be a corporation but it is a single unit. No live stock exchange is in the selling business.

Packers are sometimes said to have gentlemen's agreements, but if so such agreements are ineffective most of the time. But if packers are able, temporarily, to get their heads together and make the market they have never been able to control their selling. An interesting chapter might be written of the uneconomic and frequently absurd antics of dressed trade over which any semblance of control is apparently impossible.

Colorado feeders are in a position to do themselves and the trade good by getting together effectively.

As I get it from Mr. Maynard's article in the Breeder's Gazette the major evils demanding remedy are:

1. Lambs are contracted at present before they are born.
2. The form of contract in common use between the grower and feeder is antiquated and out of date.
3. There has been no systematic attempt to insure orderly marketing of fat lambs.

4. Demand for feeding lambs increases by leaps and bounds.

5. Mutton and lamb consumption in the United States is abnormally low

I will attempt discussion of these phases categorically.

No. 1. Contracting lambs before they are born is legitimate but uneconomic speculation. The speculator makes or loses money according to his acumen. The only possible method of getting around this problem would be for Colorado feeders to enter into an agreement to buy

lambs only at Denver, or some other central and convenient point. How many would be willing to enter an iron-clad agreement to do so. Colorado feeders have been largely responsible for speculation in unborn lambs as they have patronized speculators.

No. 2. Contracting lambs without stipulation is poor business. However range conditions have much to do with weight. At the market feeders buy lambs "on sight" and know what they are getting. It is doubtful if breeders will contract to deliver lambs at specified weight, at least until control of physical conditions on the range is possible. If they intend to buy lambs for weight, condition and quality, Colorado feeders must do as farmer feeders are now doing.

No. 3. Colorado feeders have a habit of getting panicky as they did last winter when they dumped a large number of lambs into a glutted market causing demoralization whereas they could have sheared a large percentage. An effective organization might remedy this if it is possible to eliminate individualism. But it would be necessary to do it on "honor." Pooling production successfully is yet an iridescent dream.

No. 4. Maynard is right. It is this increasing demand that has placed the breeder in such strong strategic position to the disadvantage of the feeder. The farmer feeder has taken the market away from the big operator. If some of the aforesaid big operators in Colorado whose business is naturally hazardous alter their buying methods this problem might be partially solved.

One evil Brother Maynard ignores is excessive feeding, which puts a lot of lambs on feed each fall to go to the butcher late in the winter at big weights that were adapted only to short feeding purposes. That caused the debacle of last winter. Grim economic law may eventually force the western feeder on a large scale out of the game as it has already done east of the Missouri River. It is logically a sphere for the farmer feeder.

No. 5. At present retail prices the stimulation of lamb consumption is naturally restricted. Of mutton the American meat eater wants but little regardless of

what it costs. "Bob" Matheson has stated that he would welcome a means of abolishing mutton from the national diet. Consumers want neither fat beef nor mutton except in limited quantities.

Mr. Maynard asks: "What are the possibilities of organization?" The only answer to that question, Jack, is try it out. At the best it is an experiment. Pool control of 50 per cent of the feedlot output of northern Colorado and the Scott's Bluff feeding ground in Nebraska would materially improve the strategic position of feeders thereabouts, and is an essential preliminary. That breeders will contract for delivery of lambs of specified weight and condition is doubtful, and penalty in such contracts would naturally be null and void. The law recognizes "Acts of God" and should nature develop a crop of big weight lambs as it did last year breeders would have an effective plea in mitigation. This year it looks as though lambs will be light, which merely supports my contention.

Organization results in Colorado will be watched with interest. If the plan is effective in that concentrated sphere there may be possibilities elsewhere.

Such criticism as is herein contained is intended to be constructive, but facts are facts and a poetic license is necessary to jump 13 over 14. Livestock feeding and poetry are widely divorced.

J. E. Poole.

[The suggestion made in Mr. Maynard's article in the Breeder's Gazette regarding contracts to cover price reductions on heavy lambs is reprinted on page 40 of this issue. Editor].

WASHINGTON OFFICERS FAVOR DISTRIBUTION OF SHIPMENTS AND SMALLER TRAINS

Secretary Sears of the Washington Association favors holding of lambs at feeding stations when excessive market runs are in sight. In a letter recently addressed to members of the Washington Association he said:

"No commission firm is doing you a favor when it insists on calling in your sheep when they know a heavy run is due. Tom Drumheller held some of his lambs in a nearby feed yard for two days extra with the following results. These lambs weighed two pounds more than his first shipment. They cost him two

cents a day pasture or four cents per head and the lambs netted him thirty cents per head more than the lambs sold two days before. It is Mr. Drumheller's opinion that all shippers should demand of their commission houses that the lambs be held for full feed before being called in and also that they should be distributed on the market in smaller lots."

Mr. T. J. Dumbeller, president of the Washington Association, accompanied a shipment of his lambs to the Chicago market in July. His views on the drawbacks of handling live stocks in large trains and the preference for small trains were expressed in a letter written to the Wool Growers' Commission Co., from which we print the following:

"In the last shipment that I made to Chicago, early this month, a very striking instance of the ideas you have expressed was well demonstrated and that is the point regarding large trains of live stock moving at one time. We appreciate that the railroads cannot haul small trains at a profit. Nevertheless I cannot see where it is advisable to ship more than twenty to twenty-five cars of sheep at one time. The time lost at the feed lots in loading and unloading is so much that a tremendous delay in movement is bound to arise.

"This was my first trip in which I have been connected in a good many years of shipping with a large train of stock. Ordinarily I ship from twelve to twenty cars in a train and I must say that while the railroads tie on an immense lot of dead freight on these smaller shipments of livestock, that they give us comparatively the same run as they did with this large train that I recently came through with, and the delay in loading and unloading is much less with the small train than with the large one. Furthermore, on arrival of a large train of livestock at the yards if there happens to be other large trains on other roads, it forces a break in the market as was made on the 12th of July this year."

A NEW SELF FEEDER FOR LAMBS

There is at least one sheepman in Wyoming who not only does not look with disdain on the dairy cow but who finds important use for her in his sheep business. A recent early morning caller at the ranch of W. J. Kennedy, in Campbell County, found him busily engaged in feeding a bunch of bum lambs, using a system that beats the old method all to pieces. Instead of milking the cow and feeding the lambs from bottles, thereby making a lot of hard work for himself, Mr. Kennedy leads the cow to the lambs and allows them to serve themselves—two at a time. The lambs are carefully watched and when the size of their rapidly expanding bellies indicates that they have had enough, they are removed from the cow, two others take their places and so on

until twelve lambs have breakfasted from one cow. If Mr. Kennedy's method should become common practice the demand for bum lambs will undoubtedly pick up.

F. P. Lane.

LAMB FEEDERS ARE ORGANIZING IN THE WEST

By arrangements with the Breeder's Gazette there is reprinted below an excerpt from an article appearing in the July 22 issue of that paper, entitled, "Lamb Feeders are Organizing in the West." The author of the article is Mr. E. J. Maynard, of the Colorado Agricultural College.

Mr. Maynard's remarks regarding existing forms of organization in the sheep business are criticised by Mr. Poole in an article appearing in this issue of the Wool Grower. The following is the statement of Mr. Maynard regarding heavy weight feeder lambs and a form of contract to provide for just prices according to weight.

"It is not probable that any plan for the collective buying of feeder lambs could be perfected or would be practical. Representatives of the feeders' association by coming in contact with representatives of growers' organizations could, however, do much toward bringing about the general adoption of an adequate buying contract. Such a contract should encourage the production of handy-weight feeder lambs by including a maximum clause penalizing weight over 60 pounds. A sliding scale calling for a deduction of 10 cents a cwt. for every pound over 60 that the feeder lambs weighed on delivery in the fall would help to anticipate as nearly as possible the packer's subsequent cut with a 30-pound feedlot gain. Here is how the sliding scale would work:

Weight of feeder.	Price per cwt., \$10 base.	Cost per lamb.	Cost to feed 30 lbs. gain.	Cost to ship and sell.	Weight at market.	Selling price with packer cut.	Net return...
60 lbs.	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$3.10	\$.70	90 lbs.	\$12.00	\$1.00
65 lbs.	9.50	6.18	3.10	.70	95 lbs.	11.50*	.95
70 lbs.	9.00	6.30	3.10	.70	100 lbs.	11.00*	.90

NOTE: The argument is sometimes advanced that this discrimination only goes into effect when there is a dearth of heavies offered. The difference in selling price in the table is narrowed somewhat to approach an average for normal conditions.

"Only with a contract of this sort will growers be induced to turn toward the production of medium-sized, handy-weight lambs. Heavy-boned, stretchy, big-framed lambs are suited for those whose range is adapted to the production of early fat lambs for the packer. There is more money in this type of production for the grower, but if his range is suited only to the production of feeder lambs he should be induced to cater to the feeder. By breeding for smoothness, compactness and not too heavy a bone, the grower can produce ideal lambs for the feeder and with no sacrifice of quality or type in his flock."

JULY TRADE IN FEEDER LAMBS By J. E. Poole

Cornbelt feeders have been active buyers in Chicago in July but toward the end of the month they had access to more lambs and prices slumped. Early in the month light feeding lambs sold at \$14 @ 14.25; at the close \$14 was an outside price, most of the Idaho and Washington feeding lambs averaging around 58 pounds going at \$13.75, with 64 to 69-pound stock at \$13 @ 13.25. Some big feeders, around 78 pounds, were bought as low as \$12.50.

Remembering what happened to the big lamb last winter even cornbelt feeders are timid, many of them refusing to consider overweights, forcing them into the hands of packers. A miniature supply of breeding ewes has been readily absorbed, mature stock selling at \$7 to \$9, with a few yearlings at \$13, choice light western yearling ewes being quotable to \$13.50.

Indiana has been a greedy buyer of feeding lambs having taken 26,000 more than during the corresponding period of 1925 up to August 1. These early-bought lambs are wanted to utilize green feed and as they put on cheap gains price is ignored in a scramble to get them. The season's price scale had not been made at the in-



One of My Stud Rams

I will have the usual number of yearling and two-year-old Rambouillet Rams. Also, a number of Lincoln-Rambouillet Ram Lambs dropped in March.

C. R. TINTINGER

Cascade, Montana

ception of August as the outcome of the growing corn crop was in doubt, but inquiry was rife and the moment western lambs come with a long feeder end thin lambs will be wanted. Inquiry is coming voluminously from Indiana, Ohio and Michigan where feed is abundant.

It is evident that cornbelt feeders will buy a lot of lambs during the ensuing ninety days, but they are going to sidestep big lambs, which may make that stuff a good buy for those who are fixed to turn them quickly. Last year feeders competed with killers on heavy western lambs. They are either penalizing this kind this year or letting them severely alone, the result being that killers have had thrown on their hands a sprinkling of 70 to 75-pound fleshy western lambs which they have been able to buy at \$12 @ 12.50. Some of the wisest feeders in the game have bought these lambs for a short feed, which is the proper way to handle them. The bulk of the heavy lambs that "ball up" the winter market are the result of "carrying them too long."

Early August found the rank and file of feeders in uncertain mood. They wanted lambs in the worst way, but were uncertain regarding the outcome of the corn crop, and, having heard that Colorado and western Nebraska feeders were laying out to break prices caught that contagion. Stock cattle broke \$1 to \$1.50 per hundredweight in July, diverting the attention of some feeders, who had contemplated laying in lambs, to cattle to eat down the grass. Range reports were that it was possible to sell lambs for fall de-

livery at 10½ cents but that growers were holding for 10¾ cents; some for 11 cents. Many feeders were in the same mood as the boy who, being sent for sour milk and told only sweet milk was to be had, replied, "Well I'll wait till it sours." A lot of feeders of all weights left Chicago at a range of \$13 @ 14, during July and in figuring on visible supply it may be well to remember that some 400,000 thin California lambs went into finishers' hands this year that were butcher stock last season and most of them have yet to be marketed.

On the other hand the procession of Texas yearlings and lambs that went to Ohio feedlots direct during the summer of 1925 cannot be repeated because they are not there to buy.

The corn crop will be shorter than last year; how much shorter is anybody's guess, but there is old corn in abundance and the entire region east of the Mississippi is full of green feed and roughage so that many thin lambs will be wanted before gathering is over in the West. The attitude of Colorado feeders was unchanged during July. They, also, were in waiting mood, encouraged probably by a larger crop of southwestern lambs than last year. Up to August 1, range buying in Montana and Wyoming was almost entirely on cornbelt account. It may be that August and September runs of lambs from the Northwest will carry a larger feeder end and less weight than last year, which would give feeder buyers an inning, but any idea that a series of bargain sales of thin lambs is on the schedule is erroneous.

The Boston Wool Market

By Henry A. Kidder

"Midsummer quiet" is perhaps the best description of the condition of the Boston wool market as July ends. Though some members of the trade profess to be able to find some encouragement in prevailing conditions, this optimistic feeling, if it might be called that, is apparently limited to a comparatively small number of the active wool men. Today's market is influenced to a considerable extent by seasonal factors. For instance, many of the

mills are shut down for the usual summer vacations, and this naturally slows up the demand for wool, as it certainly limits consumption of the staple. There are other factors at work, which, if not depressing, at least tend to give Summer Street a pronounced vacation air.

What is most lacking is some definite development that would indicate a larger consumption of wool in the near future. Price adjustments have possibly all been

HAMPSHIRE



60 Yearling Registered Rams

J. J. Craner

Corinne, Utah

FOR SALE!

300 full blood Hampshire Yearling Bucks Sired by Selway & Gardiner's Registered Bucks

Also

350 full blood Hampshire April Buck Lambs.

CARTER LIVE STOCK CO.

Dillon, Montana

SHEEPMEN

Investigate Pacific Northwest Cut-over Lands. Red, white clover pasture, running streams, springs, rolling land. Nearly all-year-round grazing. Large or small tracts, \$5 to \$40 per acre, terms. Near market loading points, rail or boat.

GEO. H. REYNOLDS,

Columbia Hotel, Bellingham, Washington

Complete Sheep Outfit for Sale

640-acre ranch with excellent improvements, adjacent to free range.

Price, \$7,000.00

1000 ewes, with 30 extra good bucks \$10 each.

Included in above would be a ten-year National Forest permit, sheep wagon, tents, horses, lambing equipment; in fact, everything used for proper handling of sheep. Lambs from the band of ewes, last year, over 100 per cent drop, averaged 85 pounds. Owner wishes to return to banking business. Possession can be had about September 15.

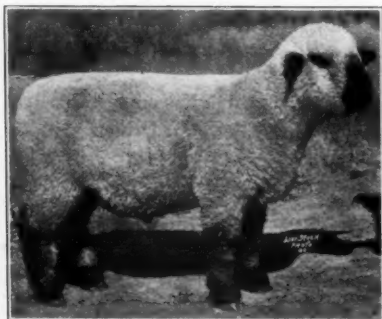
BERNARD ALLHANDS
Leadore, Idaho

HAMPSHIRE

Stud Rams

Also

A few choice yearling ewes for sale

J. E. BALLARD, Weiser, Idaho
Mountain View Ranch**FOR SALE!****HAMPSHIRE RAMS—LAMBS
AND YEARLINGS**Bred from Butterfield Ewes and
Registered Rams**GUY B. PRUNTY,**
Muldoon, Idaho

Ram Lamb, Son of Commander

This lamb and three more sons of **COMMANDER** are consigned to the Salt Lake Ram Sale. Also an outstanding son of **Commodore**. The sons and daughters of **Commander** won all firsts and championships at the Chicago International in 1925.

A Champion begets Champions.

Thousand Springs Farm

Wendell, Idaho

MINNIE MILLER, Owner

made for the time being, but that is not all that is needed to give a healthy tone to the market or to increase the volume of consumption to the desired degree. There was possibly a little more activity to be noted in the New York goods market during the latter part of July, but the increase was far from what wool men desire or consider necessary to a normal market.

Conditions in the textile industry are such that Summer Street feels immediately any possible effect from an increased demand for goods from any quarter. Unfortunately, the opposite is equally true, and consequently, quiet continues to rule in all the big warehouses. Some hopefulness is being expressed in regard to a possible good to come from the proposed wool publicity campaign, but at the best results from that direction must be slow and extremely difficult to trace. As far as any definite results can be expected in the marketing of this year's domestic clip are concerned they are likely to be negligible.

There are some encouraging features about the present situation that wool men are bringing forward in their efforts to find a reasonable basis for a little healthy optimism. Prominent among these is the fact that both the wool trade and the goods trade have about liquidated the unfortunate happenings of last year, and are now in a position to look at the future with considerable more confidence than was the case earlier in the year. Summer Street is accumulating stocks of domestic wool it is true, but it is also true that the dealers are generally in better shape to carry these stocks than hitherto.

There has been some steady and consistent buying of Territory wools on the part of some of the larger mills, especially the worsted people, but whatever they have been doing has been done so quietly that there has been no perceptible effect upon prices. That seems to be the definite purpose of all mill buying at the present moment—to get control of what wool is needed, but to do nothing to warrant a substantial increase in wool values. Needless to say, this is not what is desired by the trade. A little more activity and a healthy rivalry in wool buying is what is needed to make the season's operations in the West profitable. Consolation is

found for the present dullness in the fact that there is no overstock of wool at the mills nor yet of goods with distributors and cutters.

The new light-weight lines in men's wear goods are being taken in a moderate way, and there is also some call for heavy-weights from buyers who neglected to cover their requirements earlier, possibly hoping for lower prices. Wool requirements in both the above cases are not large, and though they are probably promptly reflected in the wool market, the effect has not been particularly stimulating as to either volume of sales or wool values. Spinners and topmakers have recently been trying to get a little more money for their products, but this is found to be difficult, though buyers are apparently not averse to paying prices recently ruling. Conditions at home and abroad are not favorable to further advances on the fine side.

It is rather difficult to get at the real market for the best fine and fine medium Territory wools of staple character. The quotation of \$1.15 for such wools appears to be still in the asking, though some factors are asking even more for their best lots. Perhaps around \$1.10 to \$1.12 may be said to represent fairly the actual current sales. For good wools of the French combing order, \$1 to \$1.05 is still about the market, though most emphasis is being placed on the top figure. Strictly staple half-blood Territory wool has sold at \$1 clean and that appears to be about the market for that grade. Choice Texas twelve-months' wool is quotable on the clean basis at \$1.10 and is said to be in plentiful supply at that figure. Eight-months' Texas wools are quiet at 85 to 90 cents clean.

The market for medium staple Territories is without particular feature, though quarter-bloods have moved with some freedom at times during the past month. Mill buyers claim to be able to get all the quarter-blood wools they need at 80 cents clean, and it is certain that there have been transactions at that figure, though some holders are asking up to 82 cents and even more. A similar story can be told regarding the three-eighths-blood grade. Good wools of this character are

to be had at 90 cents, and sales are claimed to have been made at that figure. Possibly some choice lots have sold as high as 92 cents, and other lots are held at 93 cents and above. Fine and fine medium clothing wools are quiet and not quotable at over 95 to 98 cents, with very little doing at any figure.

A very moderate increase in value is noted for the best Ohio and similar fleece wools. For good Delaine lots the usual price today is 45 cents, and at least one particularly choice lot is said to have changed hands for a little more. Half-blood combing has sold at 45 cents, which also represents a small advance from last month's figures. Medium combing wools are quotable at about 44 cents for three-eighths-blood and 43 to 44 cents for quarter-blood, with sales of both Ohio and Michigan wools at these figures.

Buying operations have slackened in the far West and buyers are generally coming home. Only scattering purchases of small lots have been noted lately. Fine and fine medium French combing wools are reported to have been recently bought in Oregon at 31 to 32 cents. These prices are not for top notch wools, it is said, yet they indicate a clean landed cost of not less than 95 cents Boston. There is something like a deadlock existing in the Middle West. Buyers have lowered their bids, but are said to be getting little wool, as the growers are not disposed to sell for less and are holding rather than accept the lower figures.

It can not be denied that the situation in the Boston market is still largely dependent upon what may happen abroad during the next two or three months. The latest series of the London wool sales came to an end July 28. Prices were somewhat irregular, though at the close good Merinos were unchanged and short wools were 5 to 10 per cent lower, when compared with the closing rates of the previous series. Crossbreds were unchanged. In order to make this intelligible, it must be said that the general trend of the series was in favor of the buyer, though not to any marked degree. It is reported here that some wools previously bought by the French in London or the Colonies were re-offered for sale at the London series just

closed, though with what result is not known here.

Best advices from Australia are to the effect that prices are likely to rule lower at the coming auctions in that Commonwealth. The season will definitely open at Sydney, August 30. This is an early start for the regular season. Comparison can not be made with last year, for then there were about 500,000 bales of left-over wool to be sold, while this year the market was pretty thoroughly cleared at the end of the wool year, July 1. Australian authorities agree that French support is necessary to sustain the auction market on last year's price levels. Good 64s to 70s Australian Merinos are selling moderately in this market on the clean basis of \$1 in bond.

Americans bought about 1000 bales at the last London sales, mostly crossbred slipes. Just how much interest American buyers are likely to show in the Australian auctions is not yet clear. Much lower prices must rule, it is believed, before Boston will buy freely. The coming Australian clip is estimated at 2,242,500 bales, of which 1,220,000 bales are to be offered at auction before the holidays and the balance after Christmas. The first sale of the season in New Zealand will be held November 15 at Wellington.

From the above it will be seen that the situation has not materially changed during the past month. Only the most optimistic look for any great increase in the volume of wool selling before Labor Day, at least, nor yet in the prices to be paid for what is being sold. Moderate buying for mill account is predicted for the summer and early fall months, and it is impossible to base on such conditions predictions of a sudden or radical improvement.

Are you coming to the National Ram Sale?
—an excellent opportunity to see the best of
America's rams for this year. August 30, 31
and September 1, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Remember the dates of the National Ram
Sale—August 30, 31 and September 1—Salt
Lake City, Utah.

Ridgecrest Hampshires



Yearling Hampshire Rams in the Rough
The kind that have made Ridgecrest Hampshires famous

We have often been asked why Ridgecrest Hampshires have led all others in average prices of single stud rams, pens of five stud rams, and pens of range rams, continuously for the past several years at the National Ram Sale.

Our Answer Is:

Buyers Want Results and They Have
Gotten Results When Buying Ridgecrest
Hampshires.

As For Instance:

Our ram that topped the 1921 National Ram Sale was purchased by Mrs. Miller, one of our leading breeders, who won champion ram, and other awards at the Chicago International Live Stock Show with lambs from this ram. Very few, if any other, American-bred rams accomplished this feat.

In 1924 Frank Brown, Carleton, Oregon, one of the best sheep judges and breeders of Hampshires in the United States, selected two stud ram lambs from the Ridgecrest flock. In 1926 Mr. Brown sold the top ram (sired by one of these lambs) for \$625.00 at the California Ram Sale.

In 1923 the Wood Live Stock Company, Spencer, Idaho, one of the largest and best known breeders in this country, paid us a record price for our top pen of five stud rams at the National Ram Sale, and in 1925 they paid us the same price for the top pen of five at the National Ram Sale.

A few years ago Waltz Bros., Reno, Nevada, paid us a price for a pen of 29 head that stood as the record for the first eight years of the National Ram Sale.

Ask any of the above breeders if they are satisfied with any of their purchases.

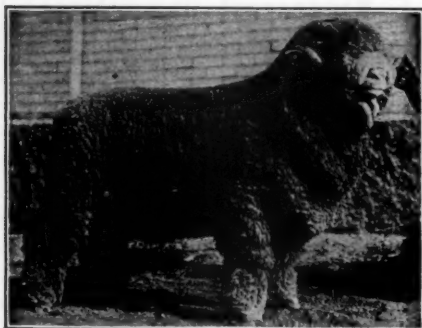
There have been many other sales, which we have appreciated fully as much as the above, and which we are sure have turned out fully as well for the purchasers.

**FOR THE SEASON OF 1926
WE FEEL THAT WE ARE OFFERING
THE BEST LOT OF
RAMS THAT RIDGECREST HAS
YET PRODUCED.**

**H. L. FINCH, Owner
SODA SPRINGS, IDAHO**

AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

(Continued from page 20)



One of My Stud Rams

CALIFORNIA RAMBOUILLETS

My Rambouillets are large, smooth and well covered with heavy fleeces of long white wool. They are bred in a high, dry country and are very hardy. I have 2000 one and two-year-old rams for this season. If you visit California, call and see my flocks. My prices are reasonable and my rams will suit the range country.

CHAS. A. KIMBLE
Hanford, Cal.

We had a fine spring here this year, but there has been no rain during June and July and it is still very dry on August 1. Feed is very dry except in the forest reserve.

The lamb crop was a 100 per cent one this year and the number raised is greater than for this time in 1925. None of the lambs have been contracted; October 25 to November 10 is the period of our largest shipments.

Hugh Duke.

Flagstaff

It would seem that the drought that has been camping on the trail of the Arizona stockmen for the past six years has moved on in search of other worlds to conquer. The heavy rains of the late spring, together with the so-called summer rains of the present time (July 24), have improved the ranges immensely. Except in a few localities, grass conditions are excellent. Prospects for winter feed are radiant.

From trustworthy sources it is reported that upwards of five thousand feeder lambs were sold recently in the Williams section at \$6.50 per head for immediate delivery. While not sold by weight, it is said these lambs would average about 65 pounds. They were shipped to the stubble fields in the Sacramento Valley, California.

In the St. Johns and Concho sections of the state where there is quite a large crop of desirable feeder lambs, growers are said to have refused offers a shade better than ten cents per pound. These lambs carry light pelts, weigh not to exceed 65 pounds and are for October delivery. Among ranchers in the Salt River and Yuma valleys, there is a brisk demand for native aged ewes bred for December lambing. While it is probable that there is more than the usual number of such ewes on hand, the fact is that there are few for sale. Most breeders are short of ewes and are keeping everything that can be carried over another year. The drought and the hard times have taken a heavy toll from the ewe bands and a long time will be required to replace these losses with desirable young stock.

Bert Haskett

UTAH

The summer has been droughty and July showers were quite inadequate, though live stock have not suffered and are mostly in good or excellent condition. Many lamb shipments have been made, and cattle are market fat on most mountain ranges. The lower ranges, however, are very dry, and the winter areas have yet to make their winter forage as a rule. The second alfalfa hay crop has been rather light.

Panguitch

We had copious rains here on July 27th and 28th, but before that it was very dry. On account of this drought the feed on the summer range is poor in some sections.

The number of lambs we have succeeded in raising this year is larger than last. Our ewes had more still born lambs than usual, which we have attributed to the ewes eating toco. Ten and a fourth cents has been paid for feeder lambs during the past month, delivery to be made in the fall. October is our heavy marketing month.

J. E. Heywood

COLORADO

Seasonable weather has favored live stock and the ranges, except in the lower areas of the state, both east and west, where more rain is needed. Cattle and sheep have done well, and are mostly in good or excellent condition. The hay crops are mostly good, and the second alfalfa cutting is well along. The corn crop has also done very well in most sections.

Silt

I think the lambs in all cases are larger and better this year than they were at the same time in 1925. However, July, 1925, was bad on account of the rain; this year the season has been drier and there has been plenty of good feed. At present, July 30, feed on the summer range is extra good; in fact, there is not enough stock to eat the grass.

No actual sales of lambs were made during July, so far as I know, though twelve cents was bid. October and November see the heaviest marketward movement of our lambs, though if a good fall, they are held into December to utilize the feed in the pastures and grainfields.

R. C. Callen

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO, HOLDS FOUR-DAY WOOL SALE

A total of two and a half million pounds of wool was sold in a four-day sale which opened on July 16, at Roswell, in the Bond-Baker warehouse.

Twenty buyers were present, including representatives of most of the larger Boston concerns. Consignors' clips were sold separately without grading. Sample bags were opened and sales made under the sealed bid plan.

On the first day 21 clips, ranging from 5,000 pounds to 162,000 pounds were sold at prices varying from 27 to 35 cents. On the second day, 20 clips totaling 900,000 pounds were sold. The third day's sales included 640,000 pounds in 18 clips and the balance was sold on the fourth day.

Some wools from the Indian reservation were included in the sale. The largest clips were those of A. E. Ingham, 162,000 pounds; South Spring Ranch Company, 112,500 pounds; and Worswick and Louisiana, 140,000 pounds.

SUPREME COURT DECISION ON LAMB CONTRACT

A decision pertaining to contracts for the sale of lambs and particularly interesting to sheepmen was rendered in March of this year by the Montana Supreme Court. As time for final payment had not been specifically set forth in the contract under consideration, it was held by the buyers that they had a reasonable time to make payment after the delivery of the lambs. The Supreme Court of Montana, however, held in its recent decree as follows:

"It is true that our statutes provide that 'time is never considered as the essence of a contract, unless by its terms so provided,' (Sec. 7549, Rev. Codes, 1921), and 'if no time is specified for the performance of an act required to be performed a reasonable time is allowed'; but 'if the act is in its nature capable of being done instantly—as, for example, if it consists in the payment of money only—it must be performed immediately upon the thing to be done being exactly ascertained.' (Sec. 7548)."

The facts of the case decided upon were as follows:

California Corriedales and Shropshires

The Breeds That Make Famous
New Zealand Wool and Lambs
400 RAMS NOW READY

Single Stud Rams
Registered and Unregistered
Flock Rams

One or a Carload

Also, Corriedale and English Leicester Ewes
For Sale.

Corriedale Sheep Company

Walter C. Priddy, Manager
Gridley, California

American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders Ass'n

Membership Fee \$10—No Annual Dues. Flock Books Free to Members. Volumes XXII and XXIII are being bound together and will soon be ready for distribution. Pedigrees now being received for Volume XXV. Over 115,000 sheep on record.

President

F. N. Bullard, Woodland, California

Secretary

Dwight Lincoln, Marysville, Ohio

For history of the breed, list of members, rules, pedigree blanks, etc., address the Secretary.

BULLARD BROS.

WOODLAND, CALIF.

BREEDERS OF
FINE WOOL
RAMBOUILLET
SHEEP



"Son of Ted"

Sold L. N. Marsden, Parowan, Utah, in
1923, for \$1000.00

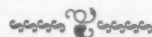
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400 Registered Rambouillet ewes; ages, yearlings to fives. Bred to highest priced bucks of 1925 National Ram Sale. Will sell in lots to suit purchaser before or after lambing. Prices in reason.

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I have been breeding Delaines for 25 years and by careful selection, have produced a big smooth, blocky sheep with a long dense fleece of fine fiber and crimp, with oil enough to make it soft and silky. Edwin Wells of Twin Falls, Idaho, says: "Bought a band of Delaines last year, ranged them in heavy timber and brush in a hard country. Herded the best possible, loss was light, they came out fat and I'm a strong DELAINE man from now on."

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300 Registered Yearling Ewes.
4 Registered Percheron Stallions.
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In 1923 the Elling State Bank of Virginia City, Montana, holding a mortgage on the property, including sheep and lambs, of one Walter Garrison, contracted for the sale of the Garrison lamb crop to the Bicknell Corporation of Boise, Idaho, at ten cents a pound, f.o.b. cars, delivery to be made on October 1, at Alder, Mont. An advance payment of \$1200 was made on the lambs contracted. No provision was made in the contract as to the time payment should be made. The Bicknell Corporation, through its agent, notified the Elling State Bank that payment would be made by check through the Live Stock National Bank of Chicago. The Bicknell firm was advised immediately that payment would have to be made by cash or guaranteed check at Alder upon the delivery of the lambs.

On the morning of October 4 the lambs were loaded, billed to the purchaser, and ready for shipment, and the agent of the purchaser tendered an ordinary check drawn on the Boise City National Bank for the balance due on the lambs. This check was refused. Negotiations for the proper kind of a check were then commenced, but at five o'clock that day Mr. Garrison made final demand for payment and not receiving it, had his sheep rebilled to himself and shipped to Chicago.

Thereafter suit was brought by Charles A. Burden as assignee of the Bicknell Corporation against the Elling State Bank to recover damages, it being alleged that the bank had induced Garrison to break his contract to deliver his lambs to the Idaho firm. The district court ruled in favor of the plaintiff and awarded damages amounting to \$1,742.20 against the bank. The case was appealed and the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the lower court and held as above stated that on account of the fact that the Bicknell Corporation had been duly notified that payment for the lambs was to be made in cash or by guaranteed check at the time and place of delivery of the lambs and had failed to make such payment, the contract had been breached by them and was not, therefore, in effect at the time the Elling State Bank advised Mr. Garrison to ship his lambs on his own account instead of to the Bicknell Corporation.